

# Fruits Basket

TOKYOPOP



1

Natsuki Takaya

# Fruits Basket

Volume 1



Natsuki Takaya



# Fruits Basket™

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# Fruits Basket™

What exactly is *Fruits Basket*? It doesn't fit into the ordinary manga categories, but then, it's not an ordinary manga. Take two parts drama, one part comedy, add a spoonful of romance and a pinch of magic and you're partway there, but...something about *Fruits Basket* is special. What that special ingredient is, you'll have to discover for yourself. But to help you get started, here's a brief history of the series.

Natsuki Takaya's *Fruits Basket* (or "*Furuba*" as it's known to fans) began its life in the pages of *Hana to Yume* magazine, the shojo manga anthology from Japanese publisher Hakusensha that is also home to *Kare Kano* and *Angel Sanctuary*. This wasn't the first time Takaya-sensei worked with the publisher. Since the early '90s she has created a steady flow of series and short stories for Hakusensha's various anthologies. Her two biggest pre-*Fruits* series were *Geneimusou*, a dark fantasy romance, and *Tsubasa O Motsu Mono* (*Those with Wings*), a story about an orphaned thief in a totalitarian future. When *Fruits Basket* premiered in 1999, it took Takaya-sensei to new levels of success.

2001 was a big year for *Furuba*. The series became a huge fan-favorite in Japan, jumping to the top of manga sales. Takaya-sensei won one of the manga world's highest recognitions, the prestigious Kodansha Manga Award (she won for Shojo manga the same year Ken Akamatsu won the shonen award for *Love Hina!*). And beginning that summer, Hakusensha and TV Tokyo teamed up to turn *Fruits Basket* into a 26 episode anime series.

An established hit in Japan, "*Furuba* fever" quickly spread throughout the American fan community. In 2002 the anime was released in English by FUNimation (see the interview with voice actress Laura Bailey at the back of the book!), but for several years the manga remained in limbo. We conducted a poll on TOKYOPOP.com in which fans could send in their wish list of manga series they'd like to see translated. *Fruits Basket* didn't just top the poll—it DOMINATED. Now, at long last, the English manga is here!

TOKYOPOP's presentation of *Fruits Basket* is published in the original right-to-left format with original sound effects retained to preserve the art. Also retained are "honorifics," the suffixes used with characters names. At the back of each book you'll find bonus features and exclusive interviews—look for some big surprises in the books to come! Future volumes will also include a special Reader Feedback section with letters, fan art and more. Please send us your pictures, questions, poetry, or whatever *Furuba* inspires you to send and we'll try to include it!

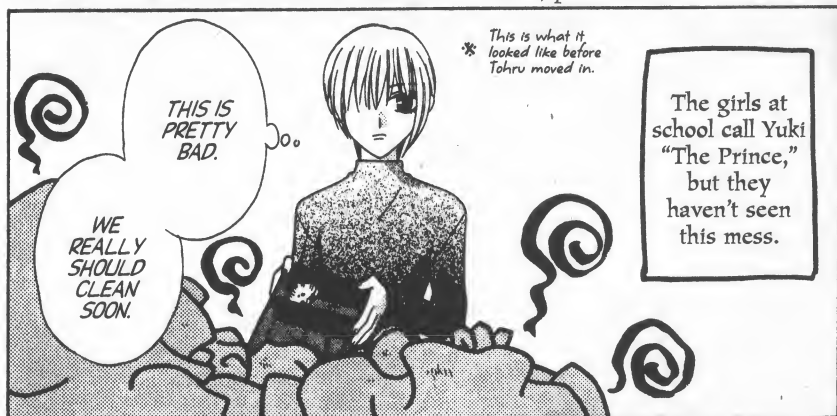
*Fruits Basket* Fan Mail  
c/o TOKYOPOP  
5900 Wilshire Blvd.  
Suite 2000  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope you'll enjoy the #1 most wanted manga in America!



# Fruits Basket

Omake Theater 1: Life in the Sohma Household, pre- Tohru



# Chapter 1

This is  
where  
the fun  
begins...

Let's get  
this show on  
the road,  
shall we?

WOW...

IT LOOKS  
LIKE TODAY'S  
GOING TO BE  
ANOTHER  
HOT ONE.

I'M NOT  
FORGETTING  
ANYTHING,  
AM I?

OKAY, MOM,  
YOU'RE IN  
CHARGE WHILE  
I'M GONE.

Granna 1



AND NOW I  
LIVE ALONE  
IN THIS TENT.  
IT'S A LONG  
STORY.

THIS MAY,  
MY MOTHER  
PASSED AWAY.  
SHE RAISED ME  
BY HERSELF, SO  
WHEN SHE WAS  
GONE, SO WAS  
MY HOME.

I HAVE SOME  
TIME BEFORE  
SCHOOL,  
SO I THINK  
I'LL EXPLORE  
THE AREA.

I'M  
OFF!

...BUT I MAKE  
OUT OKAY.  
NO MATTER  
WHAT HAPPENS  
IN LIFE...

I CAN'T  
SAY MY  
LIFE IS  
EASY...

GOOD  
MORNING!  
MY NAME IS  
TOHRU HONDA.

...I NEVER  
LET IT GET  
ME DOWN.  
THAT'S ME--  
EVER THE  
OPTIMIST!



WOW,  
JUST LOOK  
AT THIS  
PLACE!

I DIDN'T  
KNOW THAT  
THERE WAS  
A HOUSE  
HERE.

IT'S SO  
PEACEFUL.

いん...



A GIRL...  
OUT HERE?  
MY, MY...

A high  
school girl,  
no less!

H-  
HELLO!

I'M  
SORRY FOR  
TRESPASSING!  
I JUST SAW  
THESE AND--

There  
still is!

PLEASE,  
CONTINUE.  
I MERELY SET  
THEM THERE  
TO DRY.

OH...  
HOW  
CUTE!

HELLO,  
WHAT'S  
THIS? I MUST  
BE SEEING  
THINGS.

!



OOOH!  
WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL  
PERSON...

I THOUGHT  
YOU YOUNG  
PEOPLE WERE  
BORED BY OLD-  
FASHIONED  
SUPERSTITIONS  
LIKE THE  
CHINESE  
ZODIAC.

N-NO! I THINK  
THESE ZODIAC  
ORNAMENTS ARE  
ADORABLE!

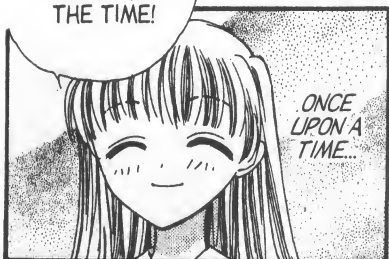


She's  
quite  
well-  
informed!

CAT?  
OH, YOU  
MEAN...

THE  
CAT FROM  
THE ZODIAC  
LEGEND?

THAT'S RIGHT!  
MY MOTHER  
TOLD ME THAT  
STORY ALL  
THE TIME!

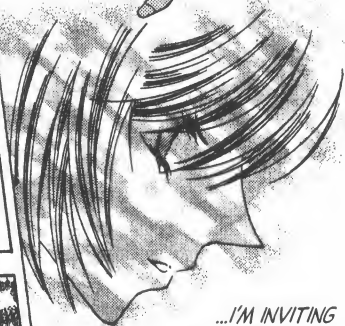
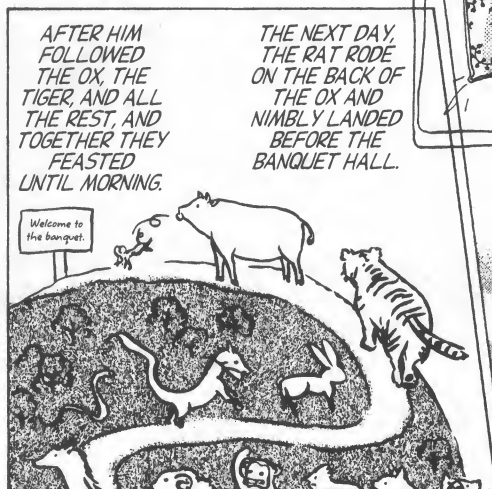


ONCE  
UPON A  
TIME...



BUT I  
GUESS YOU  
WOULDN'T  
HAVE THE  
CAT...

HMM...  
AREN'T  
THEY?  
I LIKE  
THEM,  
TOO.

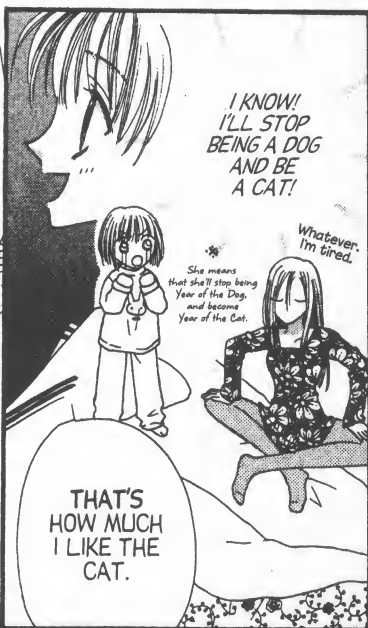


...I'M INVITING YOU ALL TO MY BANQUET TOMORROW. DON'T BE LATE!



I WISH I COULD  
SEE THE  
EXPRESSION  
ON HIS FACE  
IF HE HEARD  
YOU SAY THAT.

IS  
THAT  
SO...?



I KNOW!  
I'LL STOP  
BEING A DOG  
AND BE  
A CAT!

Whatever.  
I'm tired.

*She means  
that she'll stop being  
Year of the Dog,  
and become  
Year of the Cat.*

THAT'S  
HOW MUCH  
I LIKE THE  
CAT.



SO, YOU  
WERE BORN  
IN THE YEAR  
OF THE DOG?

Oh  
nothing.

WHAT?

I KNEW  
I FELT  
CONNECTED  
TO YOU.  
CAN'T YOU  
FEEL IT?



OKAY, THAT  
HURT. WHAT  
DO YOU HAVE  
IN THERE, A  
DICTIONARY?

TWO OF  
THEM.



REALLY.  
MUST YOU  
ALWAYS ACT  
LIKE SUCH A  
LECH?



I'M A  
"DOG"  
TOO,  
YOU--

...  
S  
E  
E  
...





SO-

SOHMA-  
KUN...!

G-GOOD MORNING!

しや  
ん  
の

MORNING.

HMPH!  
YOU MUST  
ALWAYS MAKE  
ME OUT TO BE  
A PERVERT?



ARE YOU  
ALL RIGHT,  
HONDA-SAN?

MY  
COUSIN  
DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING  
TO YOU,  
DID HE?

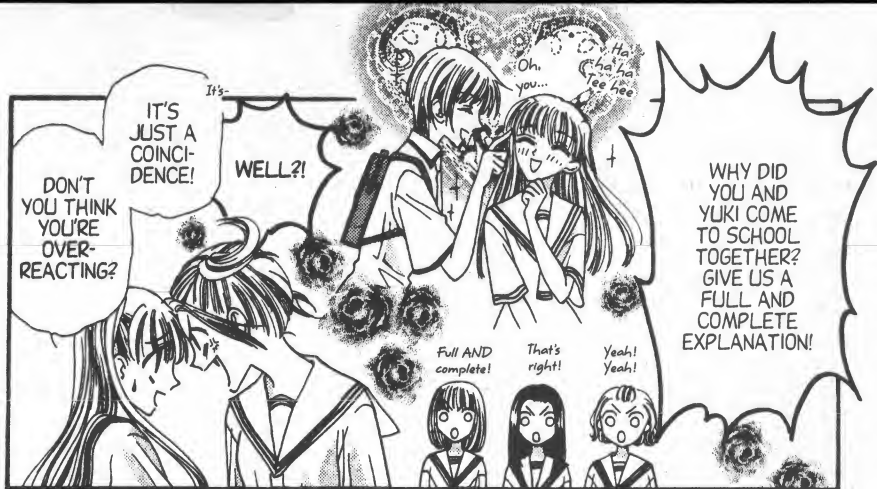


WELL?!

1-D

EXPLAIN  
YOURSELF!

HONDA-  
SAN!



WH-WHAT IS THIS?  
THREATENING US WITH  
YOUR GANGSTER  
BUDDY, HUH? DON'T  
THINK WE'RE THROUGH  
WITH YOU JUST  
BECAUSE OF  
THIS YANKEE!

A4!

UO-CHAN,  
HANA-  
CHAN...

I thought  
Yankee girls  
were out of  
fashion!

Well,  
have  
a good  
morning!

コッポ

I COULD



\*  
THEM WITH  
ELECTRO-  
POISON  
WAVES...

TOHRU  
TOLD YOU  
IT WAS A  
COINCIDENCE,  
DIDN'T SHE?

STOP  
FANTASIZING  
AND GET  
A LIFE.

HANAJIMA,  
DON'T ZAP  
ANYONE.

OH,  
YOU  
POOR  
THING.

YOU  
SAVED  
ME.

There.  
there.

YOU'RE  
YUKI-  
KUN'S  
CLASS-  
MATE?





WELL,  
ANYWAY,  
WE'RE GOING  
TO BE LATE.

SINCE  
YOU'RE  
HERE, WHY  
DON'T WE  
WALK TO  
SCHOOL  
TOGETHER?

I WAS  
REALLY  
NERVOUS.



We  
didn't  
even  
talk.



SOHMA-KUN  
IS SO  
HANDSOME...  
I JUST  
FROZE UP.



PLEASED  
TO MEET YOU.  
I'M TOHRI  
HONDA.

I'M  
SHIGURE  
SOHMA,  
YUKI-KUN'S  
COUSIN.



OH...!  
I LIVE  
NEARBY!

HONDA-  
SAN, WHAT  
BRINGS YOU  
HERE?



NEAR...  
HERE?

R  
E  
A  
L  
L  
Y  
?

**Fruits Basket  
Number 1:**

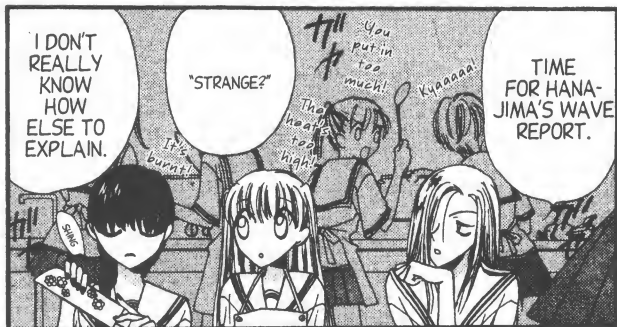
Hello!

Nice to meet you, I'm Takaya. To those of you who have been waiting--and to those of you who haven't been waiting, too-- I am proud to present Fruits Basket Volume 1. It's a new world, different from my last manga, "Tsubasa," but I think you'll find similarities, too. (Because I'm drawing all the people, basically. Even if the details are different, I am still me!) But if there were any parts in "Tsubasa" that were weird or confusing to you, I blame my lack of sleep. Ah, sleep. I remember sleep. Maybe I should try that again one day...? In the meantime, please enjoy Fruits Basket Vol. 1!



HMM...

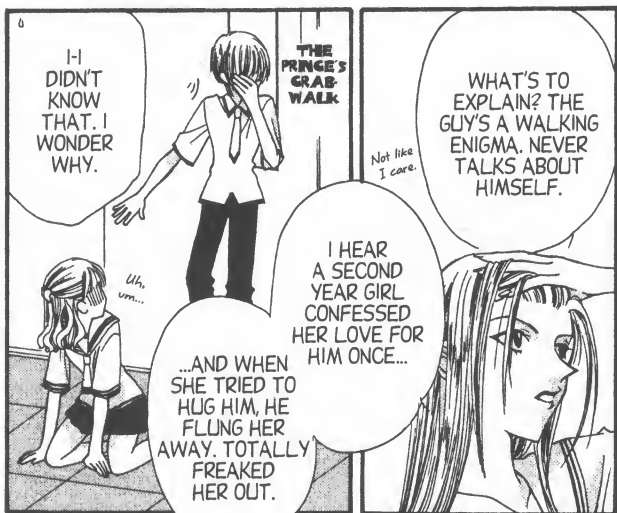
...I DETECT  
STRANGE WAVES  
EMANATING  
FROM HIM.



I DON'T  
REALLY  
KNOW  
HOW  
ELSE TO  
EXPLAIN.

"STRANGE?"

TIME  
FOR HANA-  
JIMA'S WAVE  
REPORT.



I-I  
DIDN'T  
KNOW  
THAT. I  
WONDER  
WHY.

THE  
PRINCE'S  
GRAB  
WALK

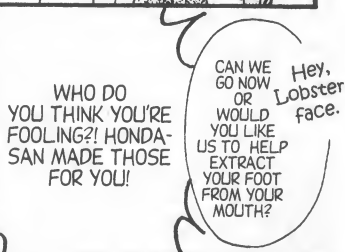
WHAT'S TO  
EXPLAIN? THE  
GUY'S A WALKING  
ENIGMA. NEVER  
TALKS ABOUT  
HIMSELF.

Not like  
I care.

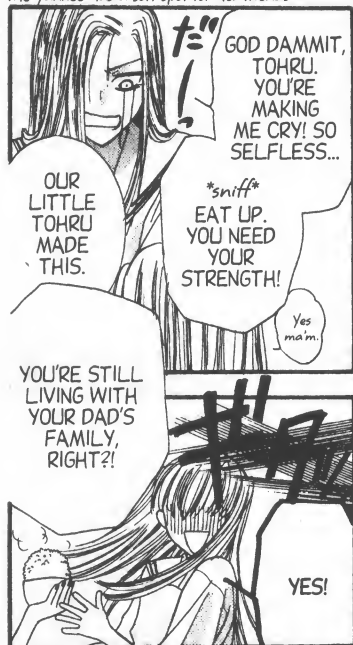
I HEAR  
A SECOND  
YEAR GIRL  
CONFESSED  
HER LOVE FOR  
HIM ONCE...

...AND WHEN  
SHE TRIED TO  
HUG HIM, HE  
FLUNG HER  
AWAY. TOTALLY  
FREAKED  
HER OUT.





The Yankee has a soft spot for her friends.



OH, NO!  
HE WAS  
WONDERFUL.

WE  
WERE JUST  
LOOKING AT  
HIS CHINESE  
ZODIAC  
ORNAMENTS.

DID I HEAR  
CORRECTLY THAT  
YOU WISHED YOU  
WERE BORN YEAR  
OF THE CAT?

IT'S I WHO  
SHOULD  
APOLOGIZE.  
PLEASE  
FORGIVE MY  
COUSIN'S  
RUDENESS.

SOHMA-  
KUN!  
I'M SORRY  
ABOUT THIS  
MORNING!

AH...

HUH?

Bad  
nature...?

DID  
YOU  
KNOW...

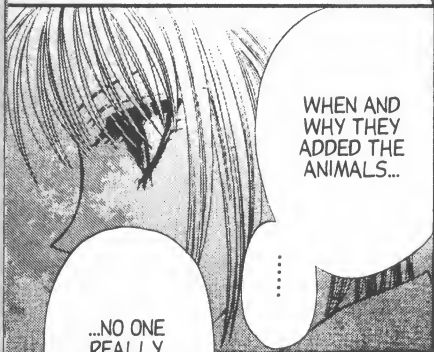
...THAT  
THE CHINESE  
ZODIAC IS  
ACTUALLY A  
TIMEKEEPING  
SYSTEM OF  
TENS AND  
TWELVES?

THE  
CAT  
IS A  
FOOL.

AND  
HE HAS  
A BAD  
NATURE.

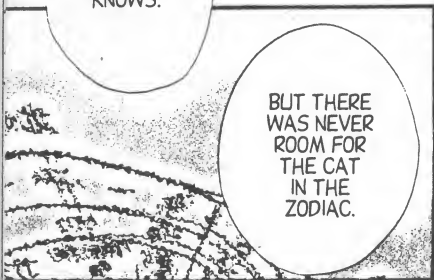
ER...I WAS  
ECCENTRIC  
WHEN  
I WAS  
LITTLE.

I SEE...



WHEN AND  
WHY THEY  
ADDED THE  
ANIMALS...

...NO ONE  
REALLY  
KNOWS.



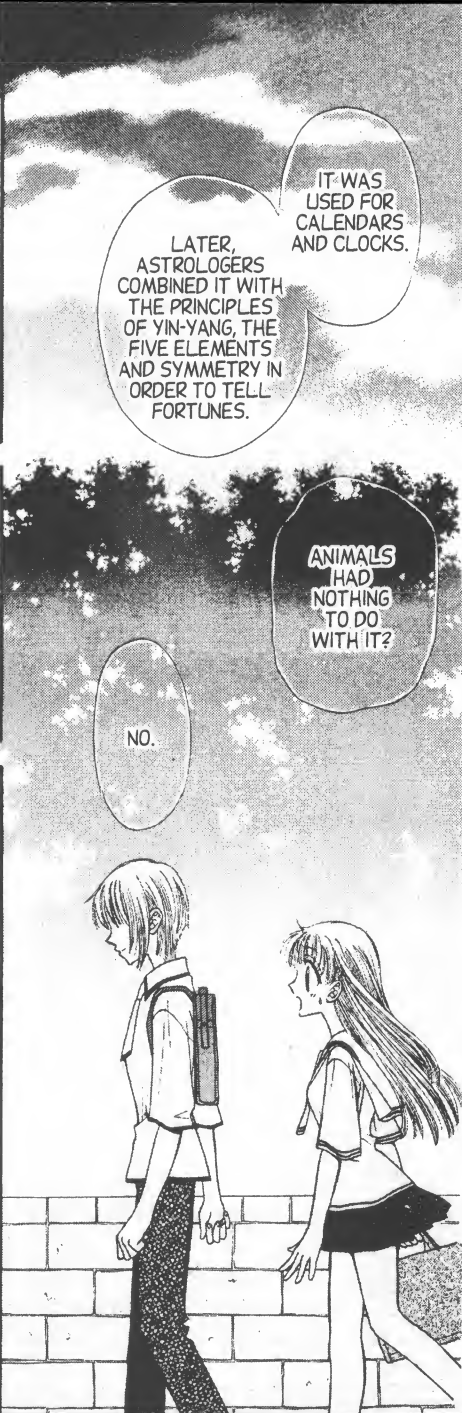
BUT THERE  
WAS NEVER  
ROOM FOR  
THE CAT  
IN THE  
ZODIAC.



AND IT'S  
BETTER  
THAT  
WAY.

THE CAT  
WOULD  
THROW OFF  
EVERYTHING.

THE CAT  
REALLY IS  
A FOOL.

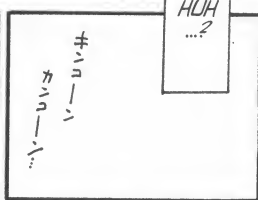


IT WAS  
USED FOR  
CALENDARS  
AND CLOCKS.

LATER,  
ASTROLOGERS  
COMBINED IT WITH  
THE PRINCIPLES  
OF YIN-YANG, THE  
FIVE ELEMENTS  
AND SYMMETRY IN  
ORDER TO TELL  
FORTUNES.

ANIMALS  
HAD  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH IT?

NO.







WELL...

...I'LL  
SEE  
YOU  
TO-  
MOR-  
ROW.



...I  
NOTICED  
THIS  
MORNING...



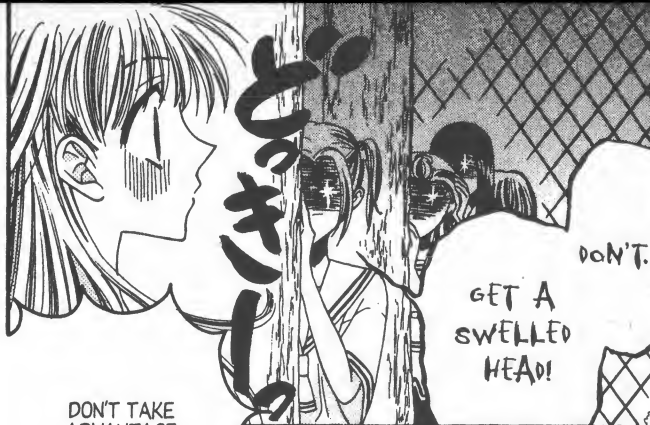
"IT'S THE  
MYSTERY  
THAT MAKES  
HIM SO  
INTRIGUING."

"I THINK  
I KNOW  
WHAT SHE  
MEANT."



...YOU  
DON'T  
LOOK  
WELL.

IT'S BEEN  
QUITE HOT  
LATELY. YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
OVEREXERT  
OURSELF.



MY HEAD  
IS SPINNING JUST  
FROM BEING  
AROUND HIM



DON'T TAKE  
ADVANTAGE  
OF SOHMA-KLIN'S  
KINDNESS!

DON'T...

GET A  
SWELLED  
HEAD!



I WON'T!

"YOU SHOULDN'T  
OVEREXERT  
YOURSELF."



MOM WAS  
ALWAYS  
THERE  
FOR ME.

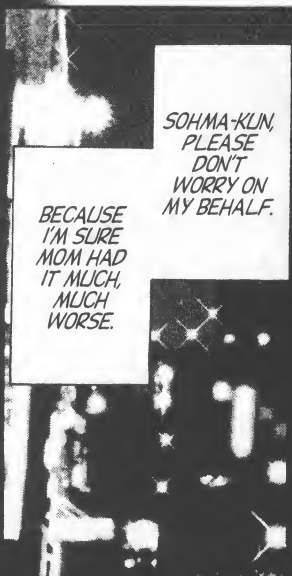
MY FATHER DIED  
OF ILLNESS WHEN  
I WAS THREE.

MOM WORKED  
AND WORKED TO  
SUPPORT US.

To-h-ru-  
chaaaaaan.  
Mama wants  
sukiyaki.



Okay.



SOHMA-KLIN,  
PLEASE  
DON'T  
WORRY ON  
MY BEHALF.

BECAUSE  
I'M SURE  
MOM HAD  
IT MUCH,  
MUCH  
WORSE.

EVENTUALLY,  
THE FAMILY  
DECIDED I  
SHOULD  
STAY WITH  
GRANDPA.

Mommy,  
can I have  
candy?

My  
parents  
are  
staying  
at my  
place.

Mom!

Quiet!  
Calm  
down.

Our  
house  
is so  
small.

THERE WERE  
ARGUMENTS  
ABOUT WHO  
WOULD TAKE  
ME IN. I'M SURE  
THEY HAD THEIR  
REASONS.

She's too young  
to get married.

SHE  
WAS MY  
CHEERFUL  
PROTECTOR.

IT NEVER  
OCCURRED  
TO ME THAT  
SHE COULD  
DIE.

...I PROMISED  
TO PAY MY  
EXPENSES  
MYSELF.

I'm  
Tohru.

I'm  
TOHRU,  
grandpa.  
Dinner's  
ready.

Thank  
you,  
Kyoko-  
san.

Kyoko-  
san.

GRANDPA  
LIVES  
OFF A  
PENSION,  
SO...

I THOUGHT  
IT WOULD  
BE NICE TO  
REMODEL  
THE HOUSE  
BEFORE THEY  
ARRIVE.

MY DAUGHTER'S  
FAMILY IS COMING TO  
LIVE WITH US.

Good,  
good!

Yes,  
yes!

BUT  
FOUR  
MONTHS  
LATER...

THAT  
WAS IN  
MAY.

I COULDN'T  
BEAR TO  
TROUBLE  
THEM FOR  
HOWEVER  
MANY  
MONTHS  
IT MAY  
TAKE TO  
REMODEL!

LIU-CHAN  
LIVES IN  
A SMALL  
APARTMENT,  
AND HANA-  
CHAN IS IN  
A FAMILY  
OF FIVE.

Oh!  
☆

DURING THE  
REMODELING,  
I'LL BE STAYING  
AT THEIR PLACE.

I'M SORRY BUT  
COULD YOU STAY  
WITH A FRIEND  
DURING THAT TIME?

I can't get through.

ER...MISS, COULD YOU HURRY UP AND MOVE THESE?

YES, SIR! SORRY SIR!

EVEN IF INSTEAD OF DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMEN...

Eh?! A high school girl?!

...I'M VISITED BY MOSQUITOES AND SLUGS!

EVEN IF A SIMPLE STORM THREATENS TO BLOW MY HOUSE AWAY, LIKE THE OTHER DAY!

EVEN IF IT MEANS HAVING NO MONEY AND LIVING IN A TENT THAT YOU BOUGHT ON SALE!

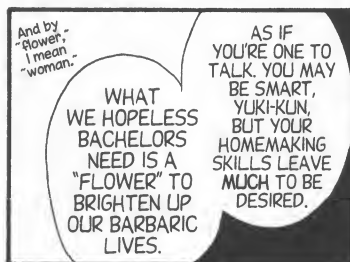
OKAY!

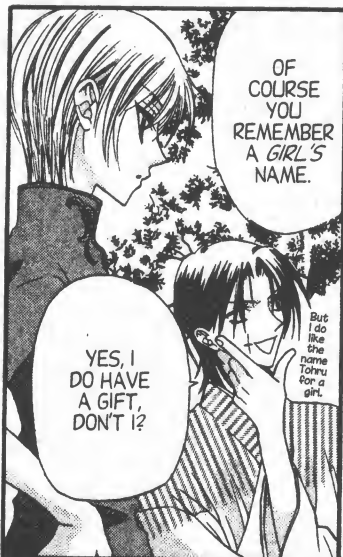
THEN IT HIT ME...

I'M GOING TO START LIVING BY MYSELF SOMEDAY, ANYWAY.

WHY DON'T I JUST START NOW?!

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU MAKE YOUR OWN LUCK. IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU THINK ABOUT THINGS.





OF  
COURSE  
YOU  
REMEMBER  
A GIRL'S  
NAME.

YES, I  
DO HAVE  
A GIFT,  
DON'T I?

But I do like the name Tohru for a girl.



ISN'T  
THAT  
TOHRU-  
KUN?



WELL,  
AREN'T YOU  
PROGRES-  
SIVE,  
SHIGURE.

WHAT?  
WOULDN'T  
YOU LIKE  
TO HAVE  
A WOMAN  
AROUND  
THE  
HOUSE?

OH!

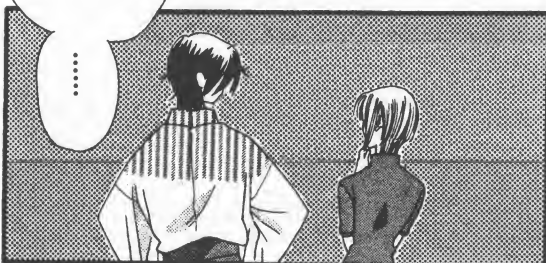
\*Tohru is usually a boy's name.



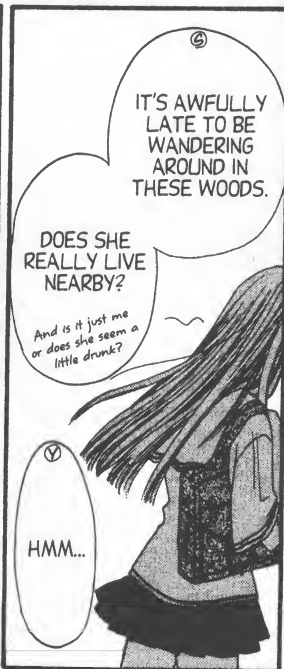
I HEARD  
HER MOTHER  
DIED.

MAYBE  
SHE MOVED  
HERE?

BUT THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE.  
WE'RE NOT  
RENTING THIS  
LAND TO ANYONE.



.....



IT'S AWFULLY  
LATE TO BE  
WANDERING  
AROUND IN  
THESE WOODS.

DOES SHE  
REALLY LIVE  
NEARBY?

And is it just me  
or does she seem a  
little drunk?

HMM...



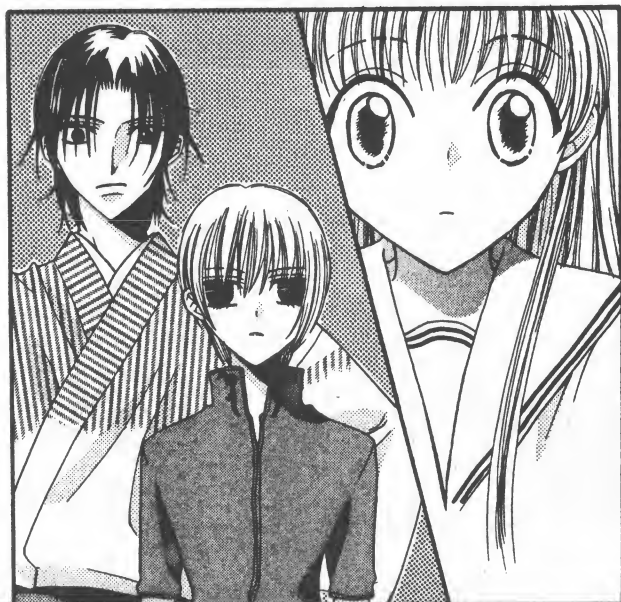
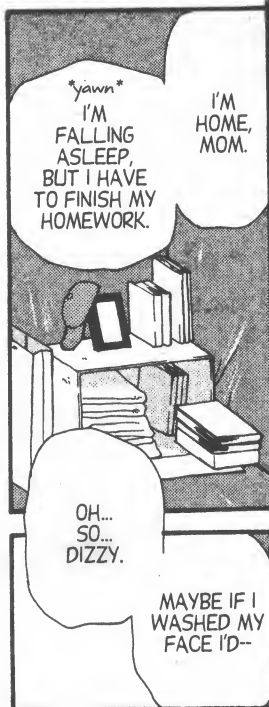
## Number 2:

I get mail from people who started with "Furuba" asking me to introduce myself, so here I go:

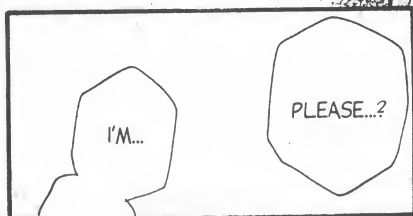
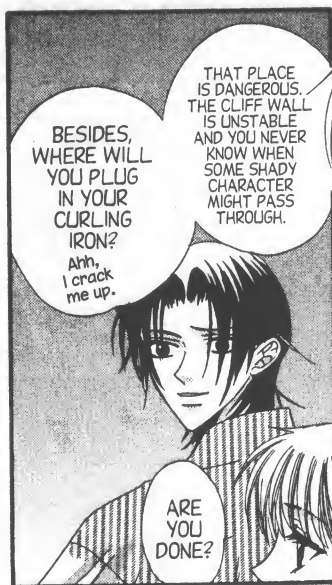
Natsuki Takaya  
(pen name)/

July 7th/Cancer/  
Blood type A/  
Tokyo (I moved)/  
left-handed.

People say that left-handers are natural students—not me! I couldn't study. I didn't ever feel like it, and when I did study, my grades stayed the same anyway. I like games and music and I'm not that interested in talking about myself. It's way more fun to talk about my favorite things and favorite characters. Like, "Pikachu is adorable!" (Ha ha!)









↑ Drawn with my right hand.





UH, UM...  
HOW  
DO YOU  
KNOW...?

HOW?



CALL IT  
"ANIMAL  
INSTINCT."



WHAT?!

THERE  
WAS A  
LANDSLIDE  
JUST NOW.

THE  
GROUND IS  
STILL WEAK  
FROM THE  
STORM.



THAT'S  
THE  
SPIRIT.

W-WHAT  
IF IT WAS  
NEAR MY  
TENT?!

SERIOUSLY--  
WHERE  
WAS IT?

Err...just  
kidding!

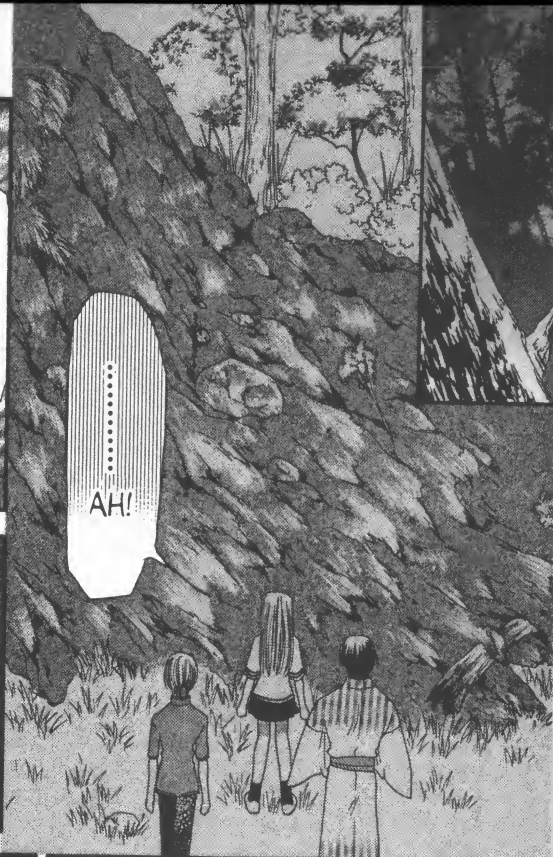
\*AH HA HA HA



STOP MESSING  
AROUND. WHERE  
WAS THE  
LANDSLIDE?

ALWAYS  
SO SOLEMN,  
YUKI-KUN.

COULD  
IT HAVE  
BEEN...?







TELL  
ME,  
ABOUT  
IT.

YOU  
POOR  
CHILD.

NO. I'VE  
BEEN  
THROUGH...

DOES  
IT  
HURT?

THE MORNING  
MY MOM  
DIED IN THE  
ACCIDENT...

WHY  
COULDN'T I  
JUST TELL  
HER THAT?

"COME  
HOME  
SAFE."

...WORSE.

I  
ALWAYS  
DID--EXCEPT  
THAT ONCE.

THAT  
WAS THE  
ONLY  
MORNING  
I DIDN'T  
TELL HER,  
"COME  
HOME  
SAFE."

I STAYED  
UP ALL  
NIGHT  
STUDYING  
AND I OVER-  
SLEPT.

...I HAD  
A QUIZ.

"I ONLY  
GRADUATED  
FROM JUNIOR  
HIGH."

BUT  
MOM  
WOULD  
HAVE  
SAID...

...AFTER THE  
ACCIDENT,  
I CONSIDERED  
NOT GOING TO  
HIGH SCHOOL  
AND JUST  
WORKING FULL  
TIME.

I...



I DIDN'T  
SEE HER BACK  
AS SHE LEFT  
FOR WORK.

...I  
FORGOT  
TO TELL  
HER TO  
COME  
HOME  
SAFE.

SHE  
WORKED  
SO HARD,  
AND...



...I CAN  
STILL  
MAKE IT  
UP TO  
MY MOM.

BUT IT'S NOT  
TOO LATE!  
EVEN WITH  
MY GRADES  
AND MY HOUSE  
BEING BLOWN  
AWAY...



...SO I'LL  
GRADUATE...  
FOR HER.

SHE WANTED  
ME TO FINISH  
HIGH SCHOOL...

...BUT  
I CAN  
LIVE THE  
LIFE SHE  
WANTED  
FOR ME.

I  
CAN'T  
BRING  
HER  
BACK...



I MISSED  
OUT ON  
A LOT OF  
OPPORTUNITIES  
BECAUSE  
OF IT.

SO I WANT  
YOU TO GO TO  
HIGH SCHOOL  
AND HAVE  
FUN FOR ME.

I failed all  
the tests. And it was  
lousy being stuck  
with all the  
grad-ings?  
grad-ings?

SHE  
WANTED  
A BETTER  
LIFE FOR  
ME.



WERE  
YOU  
LISTENING  
?

IS SHE  
ASLEEP?

THIS  
IS NO  
TIME TO...  
LOSE TO...

THAT'S  
MY GOAL.



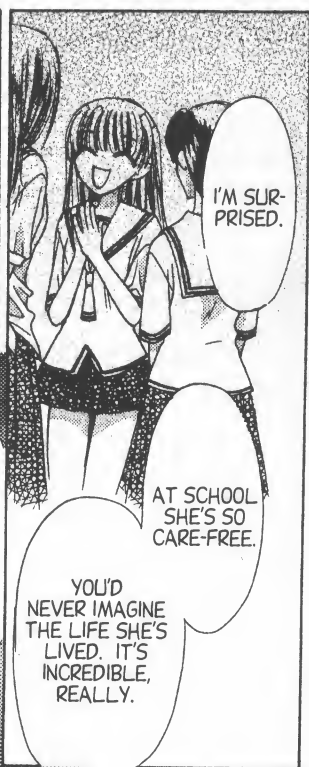
...A  
FEVER...



I'VE  
ALWAYS  
WANTED...

...TO RUN  
AWAY FROM  
THE SOHMA  
FAMILY.

INCREDIBLE?  
HOW?



I'M SUR-  
PRISED.

AT SCHOOL  
SHE'S SO  
CARE-FREE.

YOU'D  
NEVER IMAGINE  
THE LIFE SHE'S  
LIVED. IT'S  
INCREDIBLE,  
REALLY.



I COULD  
HAVE GONE  
TO THE  
WOODS,

BUT  
I ONLY  
HAD THE  
COURAGE  
TO RUN AS  
FAR AS  
ANOTHER  
SOHMA  
HOUSE.

I COULD  
HAVE LIVED  
IN A TENT LIKE  
HONDA-SAN...



...BUT YOUR SPIRIT IS DIFFERENT FROM TOHRU-KUN'S. THERE'S REALLY NO COMPARISON.

WELL, YOU ARE SPOILED...



AND IF YOU THINK THAT'S INCREDIBLE...

...THEN YOU REALLY DON'T APPRECIATE TOHRU-KUN.



...I'M ACTING LIKE A SPOILED BRAT.

IT'S PATHETIC.



ALONE?

SHOULD I GO WITH YOU? IT'S TOO MUCH TO DO ALONE.



CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF HER? I'M GOING OUT.

WHERE? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO GO DIG UP HER THINGS?



YOU'RE RIGHT.



A large, detailed close-up of a character's eyes, showing long, thin eyelashes and a serious expression. The eyes are looking slightly to the right.

I NEVER  
SAID...



A character with short, light-colored hair and a serious expression stands in a field of tall, dense grass or reeds. The character is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt with a dark collar. The background is a dark, textured field of grass.

...I WAS  
GOING  
ALONE.



A character with short, dark hair and a serious expression stands in a field of tall, dense grass or reeds. The character is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt with a dark collar. The background is a dark, textured field of grass.

...TOHRLI.



A character with short, dark hair and a serious expression stands in a field of tall, dense grass or reeds. The character is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt with a dark collar. The background is a dark, textured field of grass.

BE  
CAREFUL.



"...YOU'LL  
CATCH UP."

"YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
PUSH  
YOURSELF  
SO HARD."

"YOU  
HAVE A  
FEVER  
AGAIN."

"SOMEDAY..."

"TOHRU,  
YOU MUST  
ALWAYS BE  
YOURSELF."

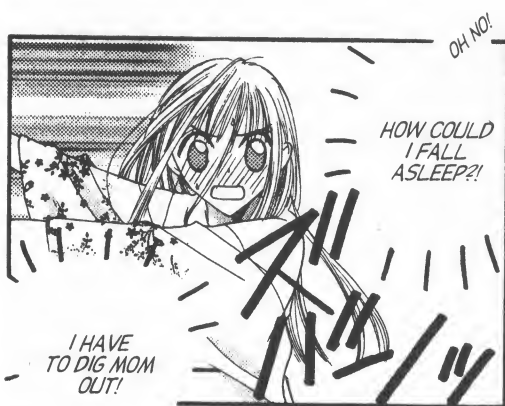
BUT...

...THIS TIME,  
IF I DON'T  
PUSH MYSELF  
A LITTLE...

...I'LL  
DIE  
ALONE.

"...AND DO  
THINGS AT  
YOUR OWN  
PACE."

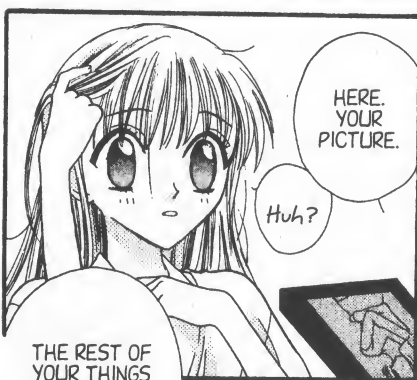
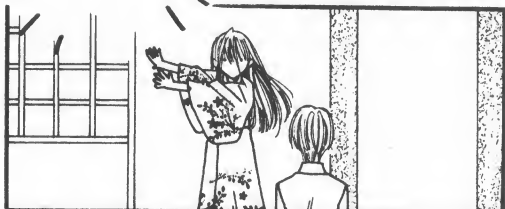




OH NO!

HOW COULD  
I FALL  
ASLEEP?!

I HAVE  
TO DIG MOM  
OUT!



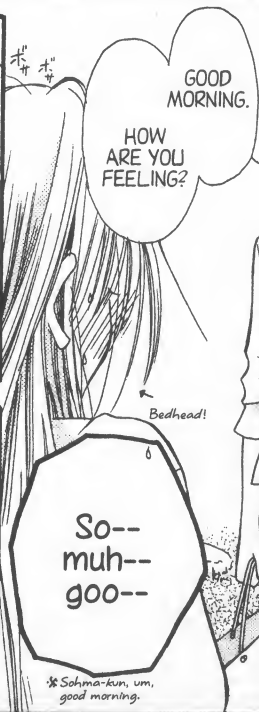
HERE,  
YOUR  
PICTURE.

Huh?

THE REST OF  
YOUR THINGS  
SHOULD BE IN  
THESE BAGS.

COULD  
YOU MAKE  
SURE?

EH?!



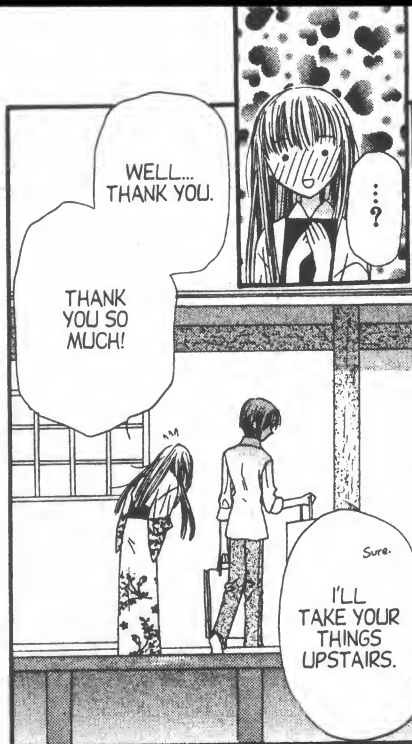
GOOD  
MORNING.

HOW  
ARE YOU  
FEELING?

Bedhead!

So--  
muh--  
goo--

\*Schma-kun, um,  
good morning.





TOHRU-KUN,  
DO YOU  
LIKE  
HOUSE-  
WORK?

Eeep!



NO!  
I COULDN'T  
POSSIBLY-!

OH, DON'T  
WORRY.  
THERE'S A  
LOCK ON  
THE DOOR.

TH-THAT'S  
NOT IT!  
I MEAN...



...WHY?

UM...  
YES,  
I LIKE  
HOUSE-  
KEEPING.

LIKE  
CLEANING  
AND  
COOKING.



HONDA-  
SAN.



YUKI-KUN,  
FIND HER  
SOMETHING  
TO WEAR.

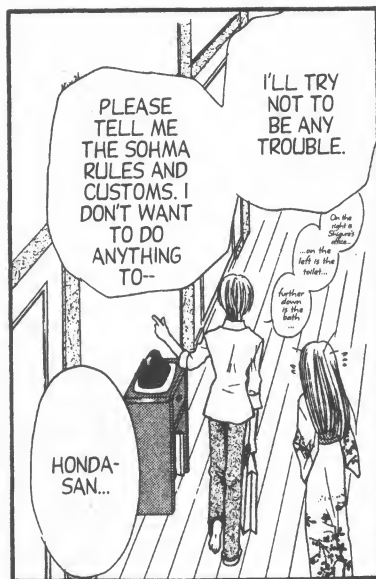
I'll help  
carry  
your  
things.  
Er, the  
little  
ones.

Her  
clothes  
are a  
mess.



THIS ROOM  
HASN'T BEEN  
USED IN A WHILE,  
SO IT'S A LITTLE  
STUFFY. OH,  
WE'LL NEED TO  
MAKE A SPARE  
HOUSE KEY...

Welcome  
to the  
Sohma  
house!



ARE  
YOU SURE  
IT'S OKAY FOR  
HER TO STAY  
WITH US?  
SHE IS A  
GIRL.

YOU  
REALIZE I  
WAS KIDDING  
ABOUT THE  
"FLOWER."

YOU WERE  
JUMPING  
FOR JOY  
JUST A  
MINUTE  
AGO.

SOME-  
HOW...

EVERYTHING  
WILL BE  
FINE, AS  
LONG AS SHE  
DOESN'T HUG  
ANYONE.

DON'T  
WORRY.

IT ALL  
HAPPENED  
SO FAST.

...REALLY IS  
A MYSTERY.

Like I  
said...

I'll  
do my best!  
I am at the  
mercy of your  
hospitality.

"TOHRU,  
YOU MUST  
ALWAYS  
BE YOUR-  
SELF."

SOHMA-KUN...



カッ...

COME TO  
THINK OF IT,  
WHERE ARE  
SOHMA-KUN'S  
PARENTS?

Are  
they living  
somewhere  
else?

IT'S ALL  
TOO GOOD TO  
BE TRUE.

I HOPE MY  
STAYING  
HERE  
DOESN'T  
CAUSE  
THEM TOO  
MUCH  
TROUBLE.

SUDDENLY,  
I WAS  
LIVING IN  
SOHMA-KUN'S  
HOUSE.

And  
even  
borrowing  
his  
clothes!

IT FELT  
LIKE A  
DREAM.

It  
really is  
stuffy in  
here.

I'll  
open the  
window.



...RAT-  
BOY?

ARE YOU  
READY  
FOR ME  
TO BREAK  
YOUR  
NECK...

Crack

カ  
ラ  
カ  
ラ  
カ  
ラ

EH?

...YO.



YOU'RE  
TOO  
WEAK.





AH!

AH?!

HYAAAAH!

AH!

AND...

AAAAHHH!

...WAS  
ANGRY  
THAT HE  
HAD BEEN  
DECEIVED

...THE CAT,  
UNABLE TO  
ATTEND THE  
BANQUET...

HA  
HA  
HA



...I'M SO  
SORRY. ARE  
YOU OKAY?  
EXCUSE ME...!



YUKI-  
KUN?

I  
HEARD THE  
NOISE...

IS KYO  
BACK?

.....

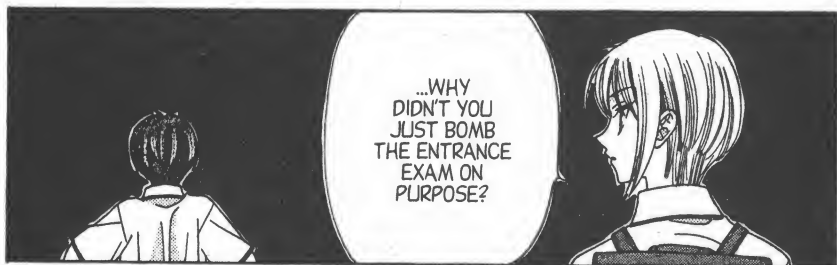
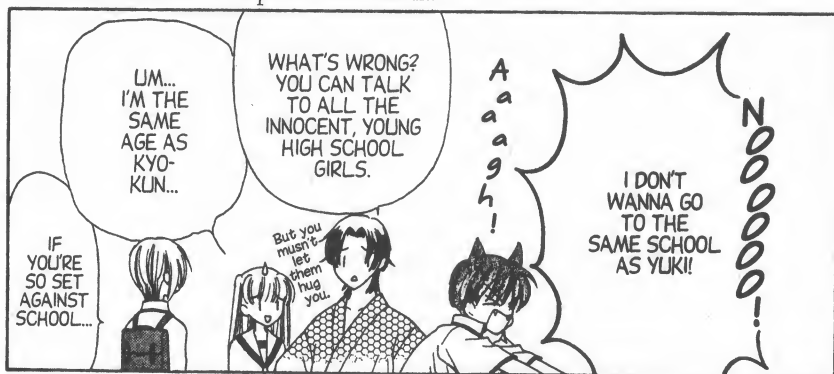


CAN'T  
WE DO SOME-  
THING ABOUT  
THAT IDIOT?

OH MY.

"...AND WAS  
ALWAYS  
TRYING TO  
CATCH  
THE RAT."

Omake Theater 2: It's part of his charm.







## Chapter 2



## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 1

I got a letter from some smart aleck reminding me, "Didn't you say you wouldn't use English titles?" Well... I guess I did say that... And, actually, this book did have a Japanese title at first. But things happened (nothing really big) and it became "Fruits Basket." Sometimes that's just how it works.

Number 3:

Now I'm going to talk about games. I once wrote that I wouldn't play *Sakura Wars 2*... well, I played it. And...

**IT WAS AWESOME!**

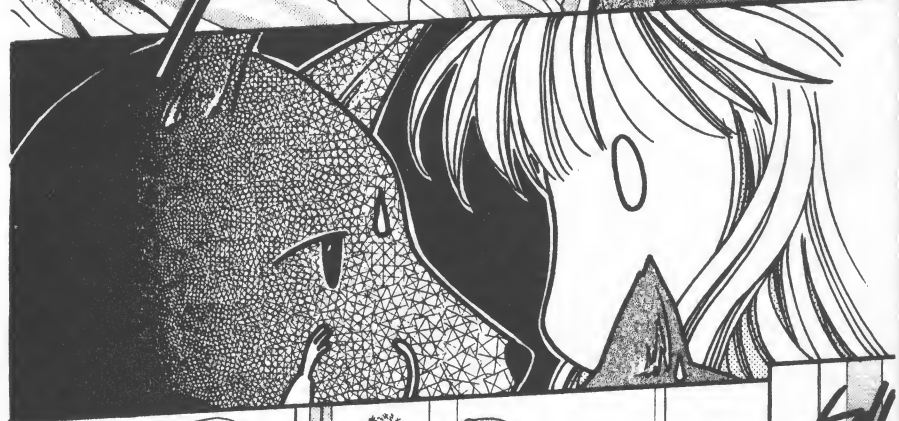
I'm hooked. Seriously, it's really good. And I ended up playing the first one, too (because I was so obsessed). It's weird that I'm more into *SW2* than some of the games I worked on!

(Of course, I do all the best endings.)

It's also weird that K-chan (who has been a *Sakura Wars* fan from the beginning of time and is in love with Ren and Ohgami-san) and I are now having success with those two characters' storylines.

K-chan: thank you always for everything!





SOHMA-SAAAAAN?

HELLO? CHOPPAYA DELIVERY  
DID SOMEBODY ORDER BREAKFAST?



THEY'RE ALL  
ANIMALS!

HUH?

Heavy animals...!

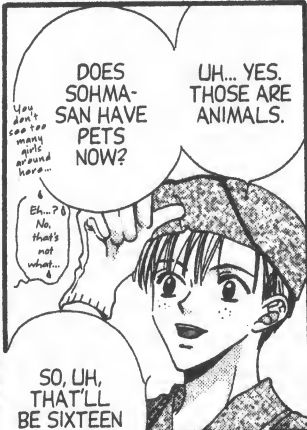


GREAT!  
NOW HOW  
ARE WE  
GONNA  
EXPLAIN  
THIS  
MESS?



WELL,  
THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
PATRONAGE.

AH  
HA HA!  
WHAT A  
SMART  
DOG!



DOES  
SOHMA-  
SAN HAVE  
PETS  
NOW?

UH... YES.  
THOSE ARE  
ANIMALS.

You don't see too many girls around here...

Eh...? No, that's not what...

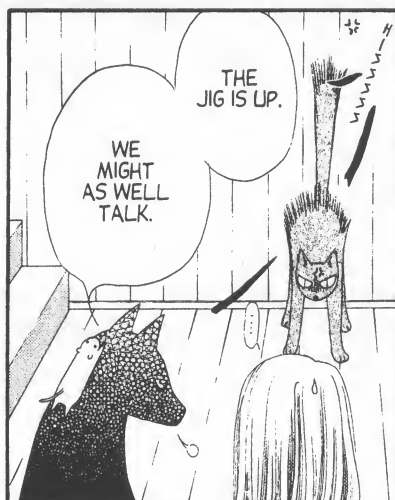
SO, UH,  
THAT'LL  
BE SIXTEEN  
HUNDRED  
YE--



DON'T  
BLAME ME.  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO GOT  
US INTO IT  
STUPID  
CAT.



She's  
wallet!



WE  
MIGHT  
AS WELL  
TALK.

THE  
JIG IS UP.



TH-THEY CAN  
TALK!

A  
R  
F  
!



AND  
THERE ARE  
TEN OTHERS  
IN THE SOHMA  
FAMILY WHO  
ARE ALSO  
POSSESSED.

IN A  
NUT-  
SHELL...

WE'RE  
POSSESSED  
BY THEIR  
VENGEFUL  
SPIRITS.

...I'M  
THE DOG,  
YUKI'S THE  
RAT...

...AND  
KYO  
SOHMA  
IS THE  
CAT.





FOR  
HUNDREDS  
OF YEARS,  
THE SOHMA  
FAMILY...

OX, TIGER,  
RABBIT,  
DRAGON,  
SNAKE...

...HORSE,  
SHEEP,  
MONKEY,  
ROOSTER,  
AND BOAR.

YES...  
JUST  
LIKE THE  
CHINESE  
ZODIAC.

WE DON'T HAVE  
ANY SPECIAL  
POWERS OR  
ANYTHING--



...HAS BEEN  
POSSESSED  
BY TWELVE  
VENGEFUL  
SPIRITS THAT  
CORRESPOND  
TO THE  
ZODIAC.

AFTER  
SOME TIME,  
WE CHANGE  
BACK INTO  
HUMANS.



...BUT WHEN  
OUR BODIES ARE  
WEAK, AND, FOR  
SOME REASON,  
WHEN WE'RE  
HUGGED BY  
SOMEONE OF  
THE OPPOSITE  
GENDER, WE  
TRANSFORM.

WELL,  
WE CAN  
COMMUNICATE  
WITH OUR  
RESPECTIVE  
ANIMALS...



BUT  
THEN WE'RE  
COMPLETELY  
NAKED.

THEY'RE  
POSSESSED  
BY THE  
SPIRITS OF  
THE ZODIAC.

I'VE  
LEARNED A  
TERRIBLE  
SECRET.

SOHMA-KUN  
DIDN'T WANT  
ANYONE TO  
FIND OUT.

THAT'S WHY  
HE PUSHED  
AWAY THE  
SECOND YEAR  
WHO TRIED  
TO HUG HIM.

YOU SAID  
YOU WANTED  
TO BE A CAT.  
WHAT DO YOU  
THINK NOW THAT  
YOU'VE MET HIM  
IN PERSON?

BY THE  
WAY,  
TOHRU-  
KUN.

Whisper  
whisper



SORRY  
ABOUT THAT.  
DIDN'T MEAN  
TO SHOW YOU  
THINGS YOU  
WEREN'T  
READY FOR.

FEELING  
BETTER?

I'M GETTING  
THERE.



What a disgrace!

Kyo's such an idiot!

HE SPENDS ALL HIS TIME STUDYING MARTIAL ARTS, BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU WERE RIGHT BEHIND HIM!

HE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST FELT YOUR PRESENCE!

I HOPE HE PLANS ON TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS MESS.



OH YEAH!

SO HE'S THE CAT!

WH-WHAT'S HE LIKE...?!



I CAN'T HELP IT IF PEOPLE COME SNEAKING UP ON ME!

WHAT'S SHE... WHAT'S A GIRL DOING HERE, ANYWAY?!

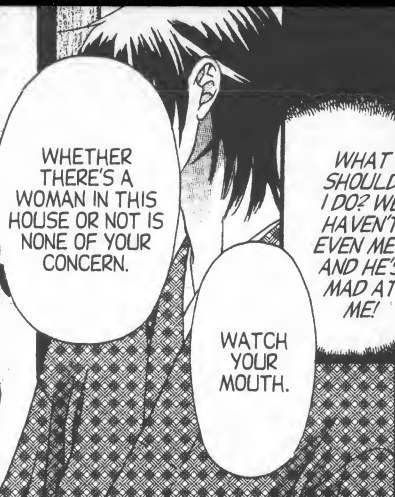
EH?

HA, HA, HA! HE'S LIKE A LOVESTRUCK FOOL-- HE ONLY HAS EYES FOR YUKI-KUN!

SHUT UP! DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!



YOU'RE AN  
OUTCAST,  
REMEMBER?



WHETHER  
THERE'S A  
WOMAN IN THIS  
HOUSE OR NOT IS  
NONE OF YOUR  
CONCERN.

WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO? WE  
HAVEN'T  
EVEN MET  
AND HE'S  
MAD AT  
ME!

WATCH  
YOUR  
MOUTH.



WHACK?



...UP!

SHUT...



TOHRU-KUN,  
YOU'RE BLEED-  
ING!

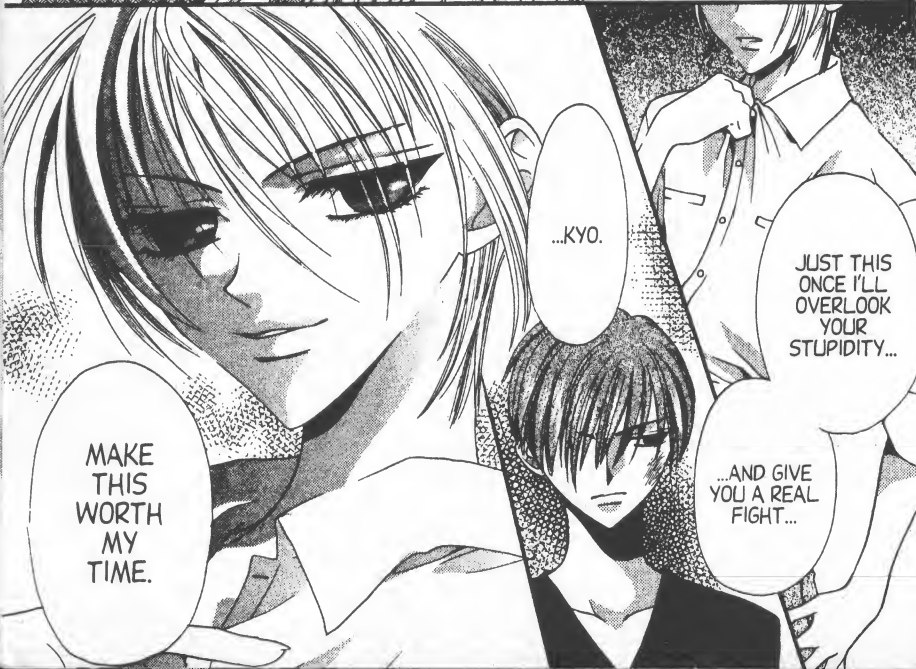
Huh?

BLEEDING?!

.....  
AH.

SO--

I ALWAYS  
KNEW YOU  
WERE A FOOL,  
BUT YOU'VE  
REALLY  
CROSSED THE  
LINE THIS  
TIME.



MAKE  
THIS  
WORTH  
MY  
TIME.

...KYO.

JUST THIS  
ONCE I'LL  
OVERLOOK  
YOUR  
STUPIDITY...

...AND GIVE  
YOU A REAL  
FIGHT...



SOHMA-KUN!

\*yawn\*

OH, THIS  
AGAIN. THOSE  
TWO HATE  
EACH OTHER  
WITH A  
PASSION.



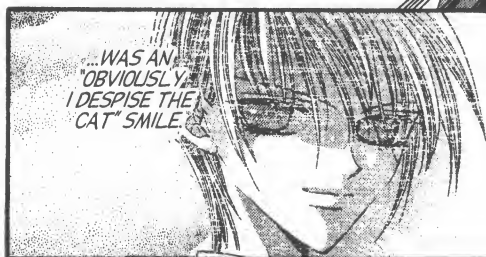
THEY SEE  
EACH OTHER.  
THEY FIGHT.

Right now  
you should  
be more  
concerned  
about  
stopping  
that  
bleeding.



BRING  
IT ON...

...PRETTY-BOY!



...WAS AN  
"OBVIOUSLY,  
I DESPISE THE  
"CAT" SMILE.



"YOU...  
HATE  
CATS?"

AH!

SO THAT  
SMILE  
BACK  
THEN...



HMM?  
OH, NO.  
IT'S  
ALMOST  
OVER.

AT ANY  
RATE,  
TODAY  
WILL BE  
ANOTHER...



HAS  
MEETING  
KYO  
CHANGED  
YOUR MIND  
ABOUT  
WANTING  
TO BE A  
CAT?

UH, UM,  
SHOULDN'T  
WE STOP  
THEM?!

Ah  
ha  
ha!





.....



I THOUGHT I  
TOLD YOU...

...TO MAKE  
IT WORTH  
MY TIME.

YUKI-  
KUN, DON'T  
YOU GO  
DESTROYING  
THE HOUSE,  
TOO!

SORRY.  
I DIDN'T THINK  
HE'D FLY THAT  
FAR. HIS GUARD  
IS TERRIBLE.

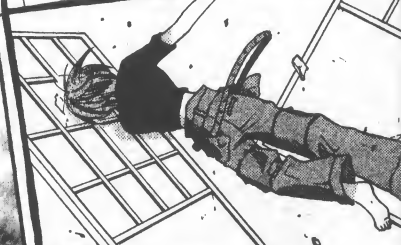
HONDA-SAN,  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?

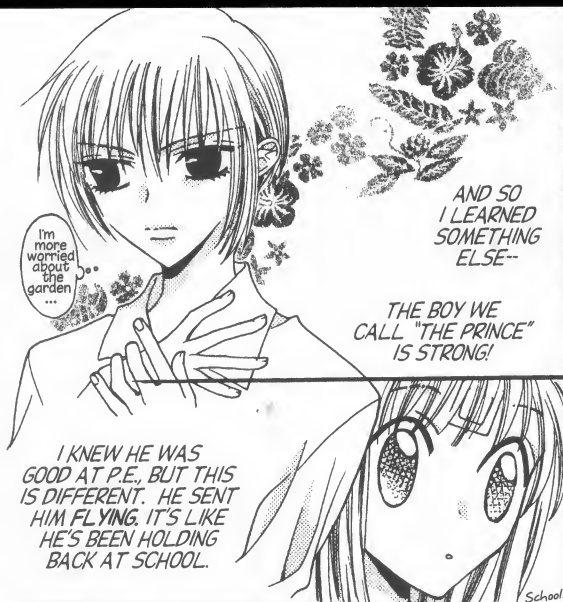
Sigh

Ah!  
I'M  
COMPLETELY  
AND TOTALLY  
FINE!!



Ah...





AND SO  
I LEARNED  
SOMETHING  
ELSE--

THE BOY WE  
CALL "THE PRINCE"  
IS STRONG!

I KNEW HE WAS  
GOOD AT P.E., BUT THIS  
IS DIFFERENT. HE SENT  
HIM FLYING. IT'S LIKE  
HE'S BEEN HOLDING  
BACK AT SCHOOL.



UM, BUT,  
HE...!

OH...  
HE'LL BE  
FINE.

Probably.

School...



SCHOOL...?  
BUT WHAT  
WILL YOU  
WEAR?

ALL YOUR  
UNIFORMS  
ARE COVERED  
IN MUD.

IT'S OKAY,  
THIS  
ONE'S NOT  
TOO MUDDY!  
I'LL JUST  
TELL  
EVERYONE  
I FELL!

Right?!

NO ONE IS  
GOING TO  
BUY THAT.

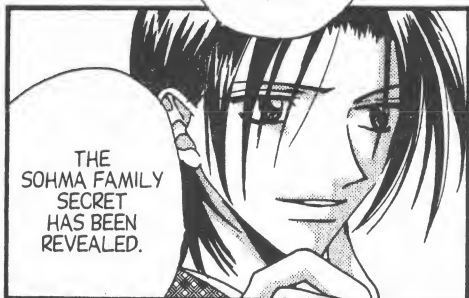
Her clothes were  
ruined in the  
handstand.



A  
A  
H  
H  
H  
!

SCHOOL!

I'M GOING  
TO BE  
LATE!





YOU COULD  
AT LEAST  
FIX THE  
ROOF.

I'M GOING  
TO SCHOOL  
TOO.

STUPID  
CAT.



I  
HAVE NO  
SUCH  
PLANS.

LAST TIME  
THERE WERE  
TOO MANY  
PEOPLE  
INVOLVED--  
WE HAD TO  
TAKE STEPS.



.....  
SHUT UP!



KYO-KUN,  
LOOK  
AFTER  
THINGS  
WHILE  
WE'RE  
GONE.

AND  
PLEASE,  
DON'T  
DISAPPEAR  
AGAIN.

OH,  
AND DO  
APOLOGIZE TO  
TOHRU-KUN  
LATER.



PITY YOU  
WASHED  
YOUR  
UNIFORM.

OH  
NO...

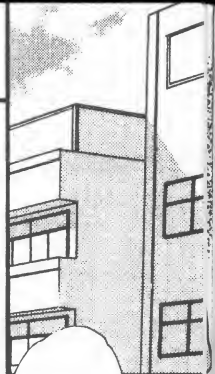


THE MUD  
LOOKED  
SO GOOD  
ON YOU.



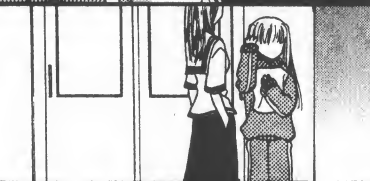
YOU LOOKED  
TERRIBLE.  
WHERE DID  
YOU FALL,  
ANYWAY?

In  
a pig  
pen??



THANK  
GOODNESS...

...I WAS  
ABLE TO  
BORROW  
THE  
SCHOOL'S  
WASHING  
MACHINE.



I-I'M  
GOING  
TO GO  
CHANGE  
IN THE  
LOCKER  
ROOM.

I can't  
tell her  
I'm staying  
in the  
Prince's house.

What  
a lame  
put-down.

THE  
PRINCE  
IS LATE  
TODAY, TOO.  
NO WONDER  
THEY'RE  
MORE  
SUSPICIOUS  
THAN  
USUAL.

THANK  
YOU, HANA-  
CHAN.

Eheh!  
That's  
okay.

You  
want me  
to go with  
you?



KEEP  
DOOR  
CLOSED



YOU  
DIDN'T  
TELL  
THEM, DID  
YOU?

YOUR  
FRIENDS.

ABOUT US?



HONDA-  
SAN.



NO,  
IT'S NOT  
THAT.

I...WOULD  
NEVER TELL  
ANYONE!

MY MOM  
ALWAYS TOLD ME  
THAT GOSSIPING  
IS WRONG!



I'm pretty sure  
my mom did  
stuff like  
that.

I PROMISE!  
I'LL SIGN  
MY NAME IN  
BLOOD OR BURN  
MYSELF WITH  
A CIGARETTE OR  
ANYTHING YOU  
WANT!

No,  
I told  
you  
that's not it.

WHAT KIND  
OF PERSON  
WAS HER  
MOTHER  
...?



TELL  
THEM...?  
NO.

I  
DIDN'T--!

AM I  
MAKING YOU  
NERVOUS?! I'M  
A LIABILITY,  
AREN'T I?!

...BUT YOUR  
MEMORIES  
MIGHT HAVE TO  
BE ERASED.

Huh  
?!

I'M SORRY...

YOU'RE GOING  
TO ALL THIS  
TROUBLE TO  
KEEP OUR  
SECRET. BUT  
IT MAY NOT  
BE ENOUGH.

IT CAUSED  
SUCH A  
COMMOTION THAT  
EVENTUALLY THEY  
HAD TO SUPPRESS  
THE MEMORIES  
OF EVERYONE  
WHO WAS  
THERE.

!?

I SAY "ERASED,"  
BUT IT'S MORE  
LIKE HYPNOSIS.

AKITO  
...

WE WERE  
PLAYING IN  
THE GARDEN  
AT THE MAIN  
HOUSE. A GIRL  
GOT CARRIED  
AWAY AND  
HUGGED ME.

A LONG TIME  
AGO, OUR  
SECRET GOT  
OUT, LIKE IT  
DID TODAY.

I WAS IN  
SECOND  
GRADE.



I CANNOT  
DEFY AKITO'S  
WISHES.

WHAT HE  
DECIDES IS  
WHAT MUST  
BE DONE.

YOU WOULD  
BE FORCED  
TO LIVE  
ALONE.

SOHMA-  
KUN...?

SO...  
I'M SORRY.



AKITO.

AM I SO STRANGE  
THAT WE HAVE  
TO ERASE PEOPLE'S  
MEMORIES TO  
HIDE IT?

YES, YOU'RE  
STRANGE.



IS IT NOT  
STRANGE  
FOR A BOY  
TO TURN  
INTO A RAT?

IF NORMAL  
PEOPLE KNEW  
YOUR SECRET  
IT WOULD SICKEN  
THEM. THEY'D  
STAY AWAY  
FROM YOU.





PLEASE,  
DO WHATEVER  
WILL MAKE YOUR  
FAMILY MOST  
COMFORTABLE.

I FOUND OUT  
SUCH A BIG  
SECRET...

...THAT  
YOU HAVE  
TO TALK TO THE  
HEAD OF YOUR  
FAMILY ABOUT  
IT. YOU CAN'T  
HELP IT.

I'LL BE  
SAD TO FORGET,  
THOUGH.



THERE IS  
ONE THING--  
PLEASE...  
IF MY  
MEMORIES  
ARE  
ERASED...

THEY TOOK ME  
INTO THEIR HOUSE  
UNCONDITIONALLY  
WHEN THEY FOUND  
OUT I WAS LIVING  
IN A TENT.

I WAS SO  
VERY HAPPY.

...WILL  
YOU STILL  
BE MY  
FRIEND?



BUT...  
I'LL BEAR  
WITH IT.



IT SEEMS  
IT DIDN'T  
TAKE LONG  
TO CHANGE  
BACK THIS  
TIME.



OH...I'M  
TERRIBLE AT  
THIS KIND OF  
THING.

EH?

SOHMA-KUN,  
YOUR  
TIE IS  
CROOKED.



ACK!



...YOU'RE  
NOT ...  
SICKENED  
BY ME?

HONDA-  
SAN...

"IF NORMAL  
PEOPLE KNEW  
YOUR SECRET  
IT WOULD  
SICKEN THEM.  
THEY'D STAY  
AWAY..."



HUH  
...?

NOPE!  
I'M FINE!

She  
thought  
he asked  
if she was  
sick!



tee  
hee  
hee!  
  
THAT  
SURPRISES  
ME.

IT'S  
MY TURN  
TO HELP  
YOU!





THANK  
YOU.

"WILL  
YOU STILL  
BE MY  
FRIEND?"

ANYTIME!  
I'M GOOD  
AT TYING  
NECKTIES.

DO YOU  
WANT TO...  
WALK  
HOME  
TOGETHER?

...HEY.

OKAY!



LET'S  
GO HOME!



か  
ち  
や

I'M GOING TO  
PUT MY STUFF  
IN MY ROOM.

IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
SHIGURE ISN'T  
BACK YET.





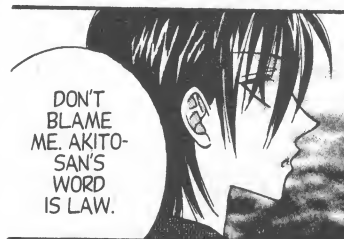


HE WANTS  
KYO-KUN TO  
STAY HERE,  
TOO.



I WON'T  
LOSE MY  
MEMORIES!

THERE  
IS ONE  
MORE  
THING--



DON'T  
BLAME  
ME. AKITO-  
SAN'S  
WORD  
IS LAW.



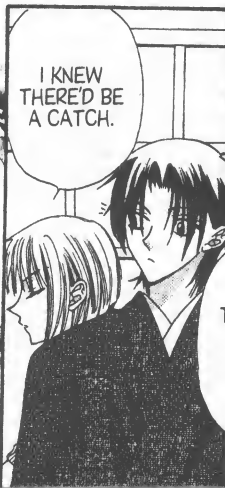
I HAVE TO  
LIVE UNDER  
THE SAME  
ROOF AS  
THAT DAMN  
YUKI?!

W  
H  
A  
T  
?



YOU AND  
AKITO...  
AREN'T  
SCHEMING  
ANYTHING  
ARE YOU?

BUT TO INVOLVE  
TOHRU...



I KNEW  
THERE'D BE  
A CATCH.



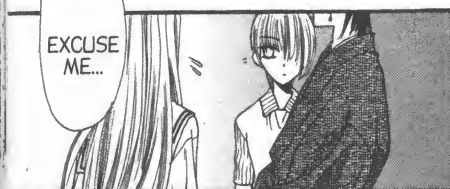
YOU'VE  
GOT TO BE  
KIDDING ME!  
DAMMIT,  
AKITO!

HE'S  
TRYING TO  
COLLAR  
THAT  
STUPID  
CAT.



NOOO...  
DON'T  
BE  
SILLY!

REALLY,  
YUKI-KUN.  
YOU MUST  
LEARN TO  
BE MORE  
TRUSTING OF  
PEOPLE--



EXCUSE  
ME...



UM...  
IT'S  
STRANGE  
TO SAY  
THIS  
AGAIN,  
BUT...

...I AM  
AT YOUR  
MERCY.

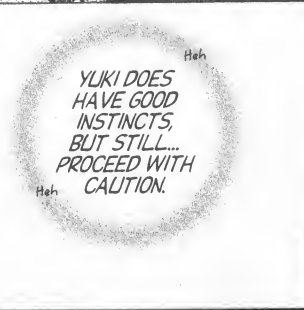
THANK  
YOU ONCE  
AGAIN FOR  
TAKING CARE  
OF ME.



I'LL...  
TRUST THIS  
TOHRU-SAN.

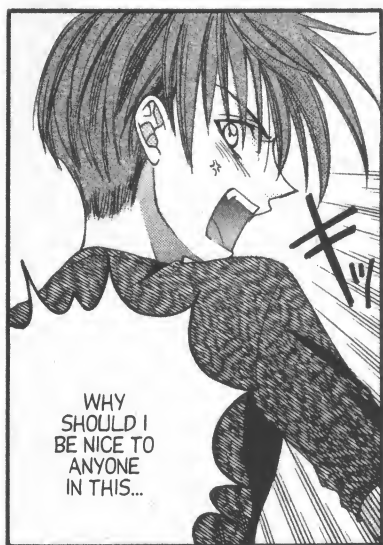


THIS MAY  
EVEN PROVE  
FORTUITOUS  
FOR YUKI AND  
KYO...AND  
FOR ME.

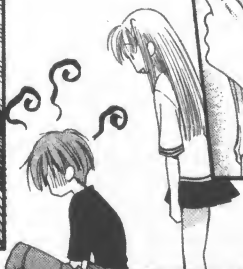


YUKI DOES  
HAVE GOOD  
INSTINCTS,  
BUT STILL...  
PROCEED WITH  
CAUTION.

Heh

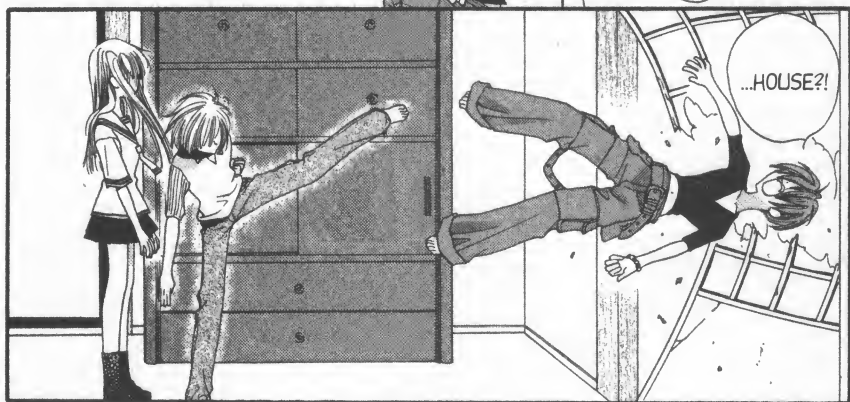


WHY  
SHOULD I  
BE NICE TO  
ANYONE  
IN THIS...



YEAH...

OUR  
MERCY  
...



...HOUSE?!



...I, TOHRU  
HONDA, WAS  
TAKEN INTO THE  
CARE OF THE  
SOHMA FAMILY.

We  
gave  
away your  
room.

Um ...  
Sleep  
on the  
roof.

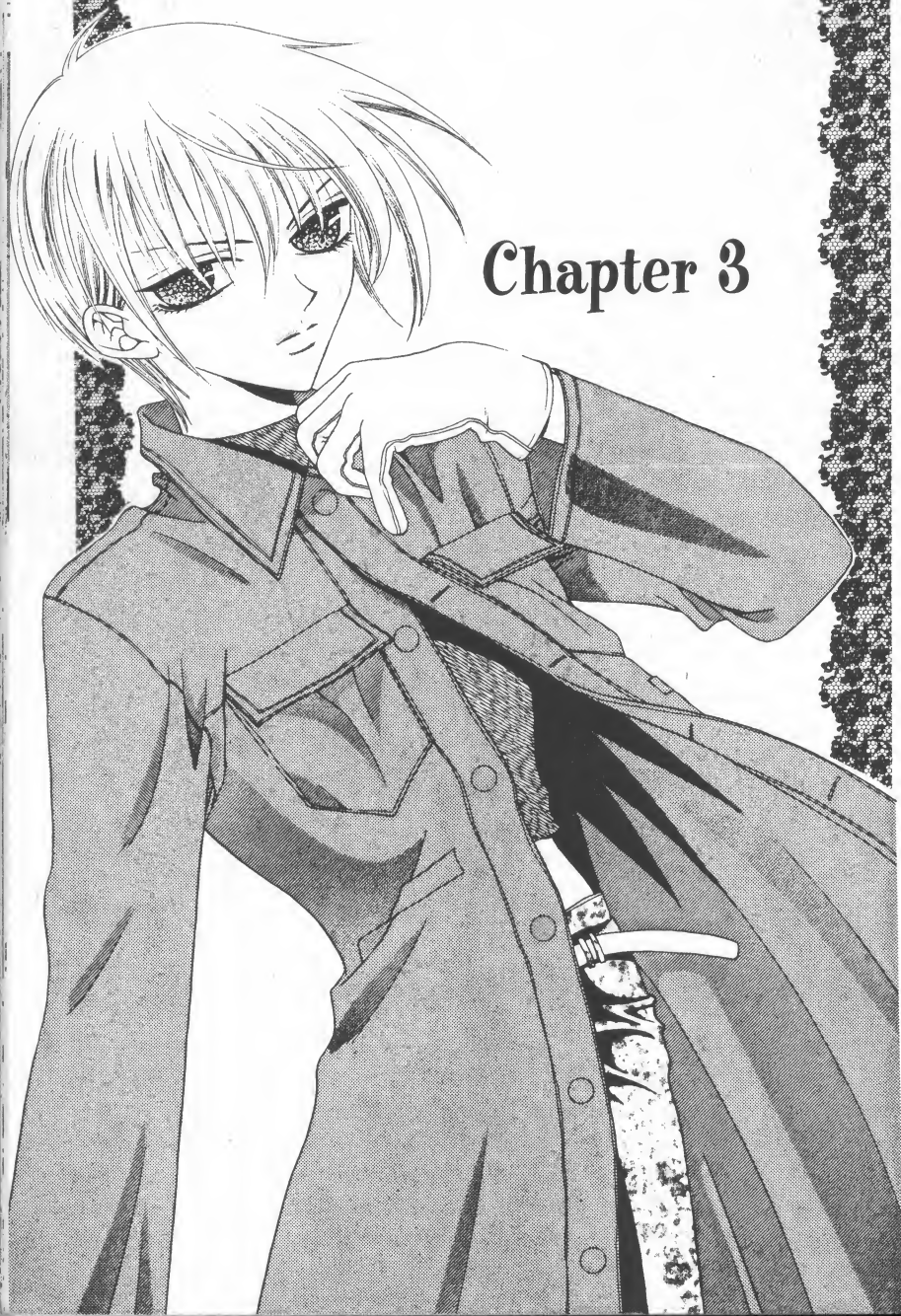
Fix it  
again.

I just  
fixed  
this  
door!

AND THAT  
WAS HOW...



## Chapter 3





## ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 2

A martial artist has to have a firm body. They have to have muscles. But Yuki and Kyo are scrawny (ha ha). That's just because I don't like drawing muscles very much. I prefer a slender aesthetic for my men. Don't worry too much about it. Not that people had been pointing it out to me; I was just worried about it myself.



THIS IS GOOD.

...YEAH.

I WANT TO DO A GOOD JOB!

REALLY?  
IT'S NOT TOO BLAND?



THEY  
PROVIDE  
MY ROOM  
AND  
BOARD...

...AND IN  
EXCHANGE,  
ALL THE  
HOUSEWORK  
IS LEFT TO ME.  
IT'S A GREAT  
SETUP—  
I OWE THEM  
SO MUCH!



THAT'S RIGHT.  
THEY LEFT  
REALLY EARLY,  
BUT IT'S  
GETTING  
LATE.

NOT  
THAT I  
CARE.

BUT IT  
WOULD BE A  
SHAME FOR  
THE FOOD YOU  
MADE TO GET  
COLD.



NO, IT'S  
PERFECT.

IT'S  
BEEN A  
LONG TIME  
SINCE I'VE  
HAD FOOD  
LIKE THIS.



ANYWAY,  
I WONDER WHERE  
SHIGURE AND  
THE STUPID  
CAT WENT.

THANK  
GOOD-  
NESS.

IT'S  
LIKE A  
FAIRY  
TALE.

...WHO  
TRANSFORMS  
INTO THE  
RAT FROM  
THE ZODIAC  
LEGEND.

YOU  
WENT OUT  
EARLIER, TOO,  
DIDN'T YOU,  
SOHMA-  
KUN?

WERE YOU  
SHOPPING?



MOM, THIS  
IS KIND OF  
STRANGE.

I'M EATING  
DINNER WITH  
SOHMA-KUN...



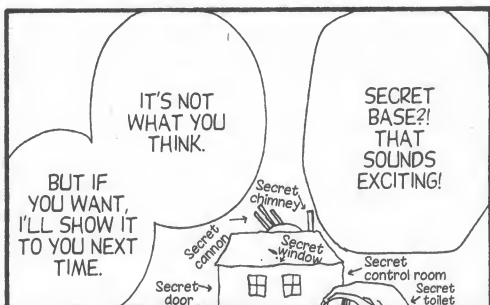
I-I'M  
SO HAPPY!  
A SECRET  
BASE!

REALLY?  
ARE YOU  
SURE?!



...IN MY  
SECRET  
BASE.

OH,  
I WAS  
IN THE  
BACK-  
YARD.



IT'S NOT  
WHAT YOU  
THINK.

BUT IF  
YOU WANT,  
I'LL SHOW IT  
TO YOU NEXT  
TIME.

SECRET  
BASE?!  
THAT  
SOUNDS  
EXCITING!

Secret  
chimney  
Secret  
window  
Secret  
control room  
Secret  
toilet  
Secret  
door



JUST  
LISTEN TO ME  
FOR A SECOND,  
KYO!

I knew  
of one when  
I was little,  
but girls  
weren't  
allowed.

I  
can't  
wait!

SHUT  
UP!



MAN,  
YOUR  
PERSUASIVE  
SKILLS  
SUCK!

WELL,  
YES, NOW THAT  
YOU MENTION IT,  
I DO--BUT THIS IS  
FOR YOUR OWN  
GOOD!

DO YOU REALLY  
GET THAT MUCH  
ENJOYMENT  
FROM PLAYING  
WITH PEOPLE'S  
LIVES?!

I  
HATE  
THIS!



KYO!

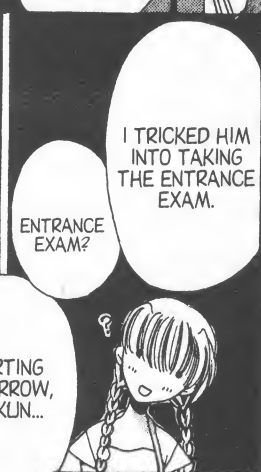
NOT  
HUNGRY!

UM,  
WELCOME  
HOME.

DINNER'S--



It's his  
about the  
to talk





# Number 4:

I finished "Romance of the Three Kingdoms," "Black Matrix" and "Pretty League." My characters were so strong that I won all the battles. I'm happy, but a little dramatic tension would've been nice, too (ha ha). I'll finish "Tokyo Friend" soon, too. It's a shame that all the main characters are guys, it would've been nice to play a girl! The one I'm waiting for now is "Teigaku Graph." (K-chan is looking forward to it more than I am.) I'm looking forward to "Knight R." And "Hey You, Pikachu!" Where will I ever find the time? I'll just sleep less! Then faint.





.....

THAT  
IDIOT.

HE WANTS  
TO BEAT  
SOHMA-KUN  
SO BADLY  
THAT HE  
WENT  
TO THE  
MOUNTAINS  
TO TRAIN.

IS IT BECAUSE HE  
HOLDS A GRUDGE  
ABOUT BEING  
TRICKED, LIKE IN  
THE STORY?

I FEEL  
LIKE IT  
WOULD BE  
WRONG TO  
ASK KYO-  
SAN.



LIKE  
SITTING UNDER  
A WATERFALL  
AND WRESTLING  
BEARS? THAT  
KIND OF  
TRAINING?

TRAINING?

HMMM...  
WELL,  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT...  
I GUESS.



KYO  
WANTS TO  
BEAT YUKI-  
KUN IN A  
FIGHT.

WHAT IS  
HE GOING  
TO DO...  
WITH HIS  
TRAINING?



EVER  
SINCE  
THEY WERE  
LITTLE, HE HAS  
BEEN KYO'S  
RIVAL.

WHERE?!

LOOK,  
OVER THERE!  
THE GUY WITH  
THE ORANGE  
HAIR.

WHERE  
IS HE?!

HUH?!  
THEY DON'T  
LOOK ALIKE  
AT ALL!

HE'S  
CUTE!

tee  
hee

IS THAT  
HIS NATURAL  
COLOR?

tee  
hee

HEY, ARE YOU  
REALLY SOHMA-  
KUN'S COUSIN?!

DO YOU  
GUYS GET  
ALONG?!

tee  
hee

HE'S  
GETTING  
SCARED!?

ANYWAY,  
I THINK KYO-  
SAN HATES  
ME.

IT'S  
KIND OF  
SAD.

I FINALLY  
MET THE CAT  
FROM THE  
ZODIAC...

SIP



I'M  
SORRY,  
SENAI.  
HE IS MY  
COUSIN, BUT  
WE'RE NOT  
CLOSE.

I DON'T  
EVEN SPEAK  
TO HIM.

*\*Senpai=Upperclassman*



*That  
smile...*

HIS  
HAIR IS  
CERTAINLY  
INTERESTING.



YUKI-KUN!

IS IT  
TRUE YOUR  
COUSIN JUST  
TRANSFERRED  
HERE?  
INTRODUCE  
US!

*tee hee  
hee*



THE SAME,  
THE VERY  
SAME...

I FEEL  
THE SAME  
WAVES FROM  
HIM AS I DO  
FROM YUKI  
SOHMA.

THESE WAVES  
I SENSE...  
WHAT DO  
THEY MEAN?



SO  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THE  
OTHERS...  
ALMOST  
INHUMAN...

*Hey,  
that's  
rude.*



IT'S A  
LITTLE  
LIKE KYOKO-  
SAN'S HAIR  
COLOR.

*\*Kyoko-san=Toru's  
Mom*

THEY'RE  
THE SAME.

NOW  
THAT YOU  
MENTION IT,  
IT IS.



HEY,  
WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?

LET'S  
TALK!

HANA-CHAN IS  
VERY POWERFUL  
TO SENSE THINGS  
NO ONE ELSE CAN.  
BUT I HAVE TO  
ADMIT, I NEVER  
UNDERSTAND HER  
WAVE REPORT!

SOHMA-  
KUN?



KYO!

SOHMA-KUN,  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?



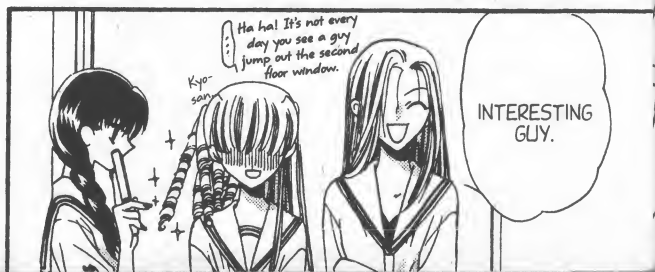
JUST....  
CHILL,  
OKAY?

LET  
GO!



OW!  
THAT  
HURTS!

KUUUUUUUUUU







IF YOU  
ACT LIKE  
AN IDIOT,  
IT CAUSES  
PROBLEMS  
FOR ME.

HEY.

USE  
YOUR  
HEAD,  
WILL  
YOU?



I WANT  
OUT OF  
THE SOHMA  
CAGE, EVEN  
JUST A  
LITTLE.

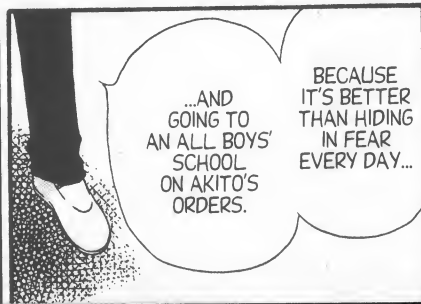
I CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
WHY YOU WANT  
SO BADLY TO  
LIVE IN THAT  
CAGE.



ARE YOU  
INSANE?

WHY  
DO YOU  
GO TO A  
SCHOOL...

... THAT'S  
CRAWLING  
WITH  
GIRLS?



...AND  
GOING TO  
AN ALL BOYS'  
SCHOOL  
ON AKITO'S  
ORDERS.

BECAUSE  
IT'S BETTER  
THAN HIDING  
IN FEAR  
EVERY DAY...

...A RAT  
WOULD NEVER  
UNDERSTAND!

YOU...

I'LL  
BEAT YOU  
AND BECOME  
ONE OF THE  
ZODIAC!

I WON'T BE  
SHUNNED  
BY THE SOHMA  
FAMILY ANY  
LONGER!

Ah!  
There  
they  
are!

THIS  
TIME...

...I WILL  
BEAT  
YOU!

ONE OF THE  
ZODIAC...



...BEAT  
YOU!

BECOME ONE  
OF THE  
ZODIAC?

NO!

YOU  
MUSTN'T...!

I WILL...



P-PEOPLE GET  
IN TROUBLE  
FOR FIGHTING  
IN SCHOOL....

...BUT YOU  
CAN'T KEEP  
FIGHTING.

I KNOW  
YOU'RE  
ANGRY...

I'M  
SORRY!

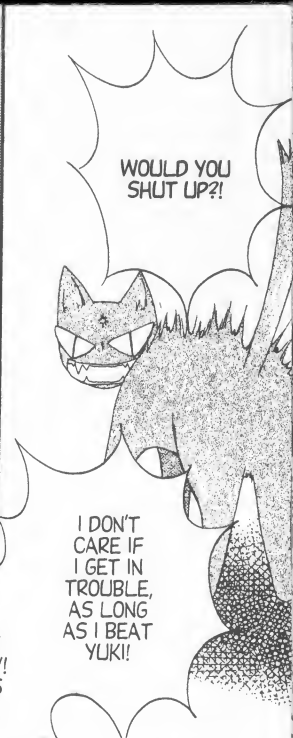


I CAN'T EVEN  
STAND TO LOOK  
AT YOU!



KYO...

STAY  
OUT OF  
MY WAY!  
WHAT'S  
WITH  
YOU?!



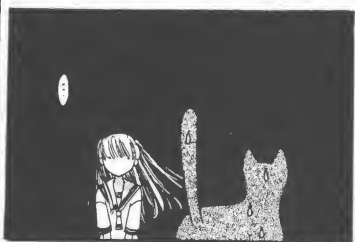
WOULD YOU  
SHUT UP?!

I DON'T  
CARE IF  
I GET IN  
TROUBLE,  
AS LONG  
AS I BEAT  
YUKI!



HIS  
MAXIMUM  
FLURY!

Ah!

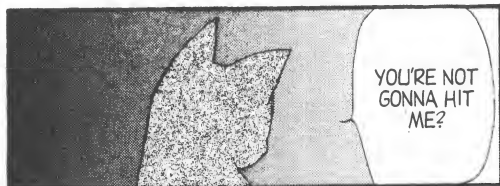




I MEANT  
IT.

I REALLY  
WAS  
CRYING.

WHEN GOD AND THE  
TWELVE ANIMALS  
WERE ENJOYING THE  
BANQUET ON THE  
FAR OFF MOUNTAIN.



POOR THING--  
SLEEPING  
SOUNDLY  
UNAWARE OF  
THE DECEIT.

...THE CAT  
WAS DREAMING  
OF A BANQUET  
THE NEXT DAY  
THAT WOULD  
NEVER HAPPEN.

I LIKED  
HIM SO MUCH  
THAT IF THERE  
WAS A YEAR OF THE  
CAT CLUB I WOULD  
HAVE JOINED.

BUT HE  
HATES  
ME.

WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO  
NOW?

Punishing herself

AH!  
THERE  
SHE IS.

Oh!

I'M PICKING  
UP TOHRU-  
KUN'S  
WAVES!

Pushy

WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
THERE? CLASS  
IS ABOUT TO--

TOHRUUUU!





AND?

YOU CUT  
YOUR FIRST  
DAY OF  
CLASS?

LET ME  
GUESS. YOU  
TRIED TO  
FIGHT YUKI-  
KUN AND  
LOST. AGAIN.



NO,  
REALLY,  
JUST NOW...  
THIS CORNER...  
OUCH!

OW!  
IT HURT  
SO MUCH  
I STARTED  
CRYING.

Trying to  
trick them  
about her tears.

IF I DIDN'T  
KNOW BETTER,  
I'D SAY YOU RAN  
INTO IT ON  
PURPOSE.

Now, now,  
don't  
spoil her  
cover-up.

.....



I  
ONLY  
EVER  
SAY...

...REALLY  
MEAN  
THINGS...

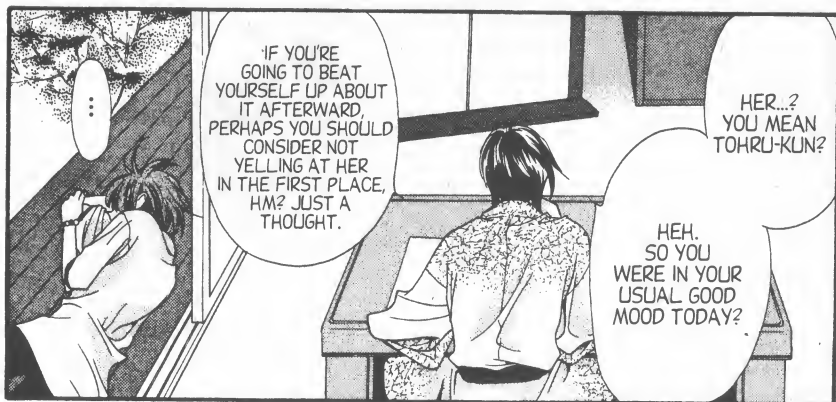
...TO  
HER.



I...

...I WANT  
TO LEAVE  
THIS HOUSE.

IT'S  
ONLY THE  
THIRD DAY.  
THINK OF IT  
AS MORE  
TRAINING.



IF YOU'RE GOING TO BEAT YOURSELF UP ABOUT IT AFTERWARD, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER NOT YELLING AT HER IN THE FIRST PLACE, HM? JUST A THOUGHT.

HER...? YOU MEAN TOHRU-KUN?

HEH. SO YOU WERE IN YOUR USUAL GOOD MOOD TODAY?



FOR EXAMPLE, AS A MARTIAL ARTIST, YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO BREAK THE TABLE WITH YOUR FIST.

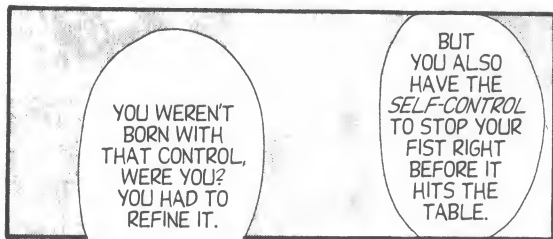
PEOPLE AREN'T BORN SOCIAL... SURE IT COMES EASIER TO SOME PEOPLE...

...BUT MOST PEOPLE, LIKE YOU, NEED TO WORK AT IT. SOME MORE THAN OTHERS. YOU'RE JUST INEXPERIENCED.



I CAN'T HELP IT.

I'M...



YOU WEREN'T BORN WITH THAT CONTROL, WERE YOU? YOU HAD TO REFINE IT.

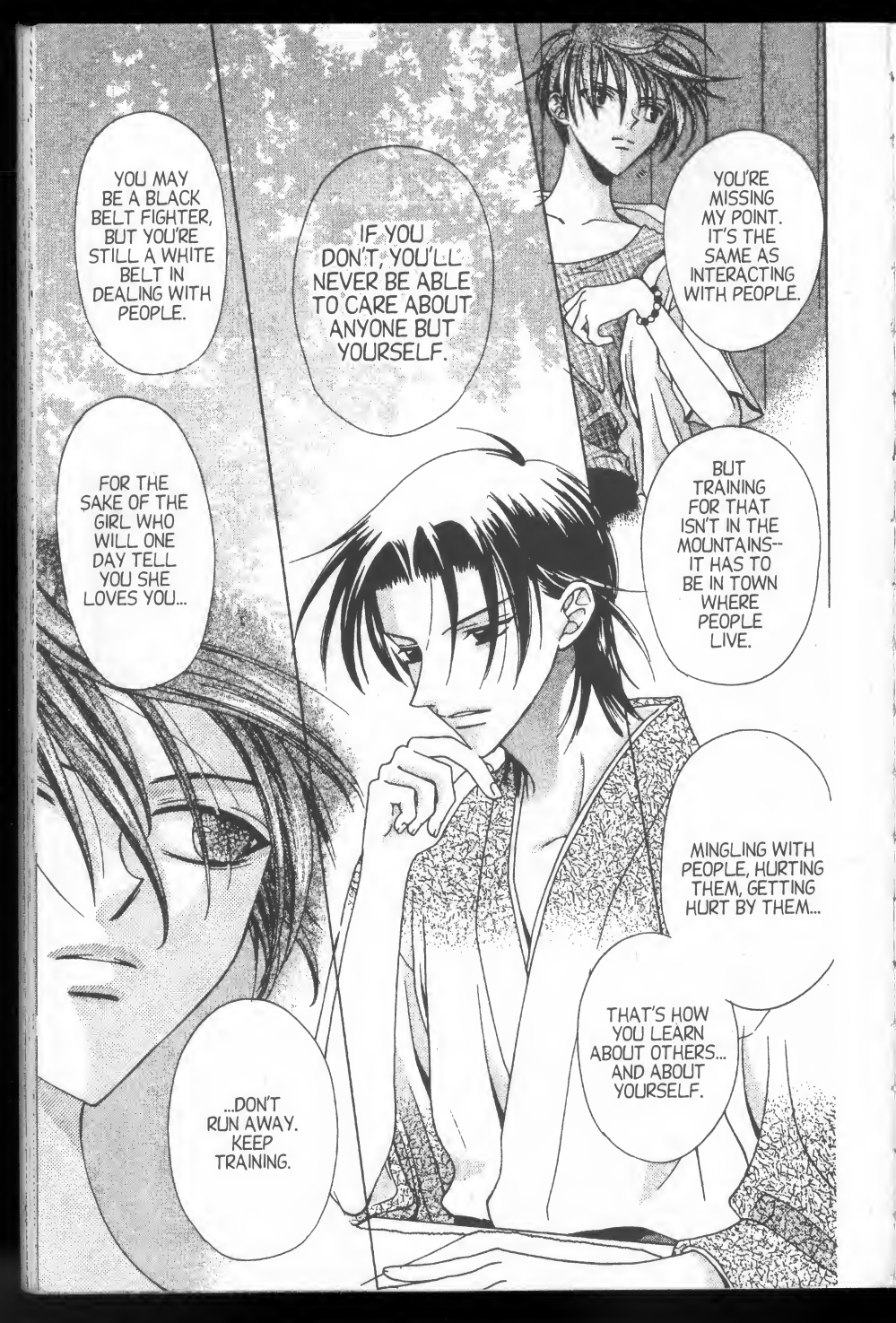
BUT YOU ALSO HAVE THE *SELF-CONTROL* TO STOP YOUR FIST RIGHT BEFORE IT HITS THE TABLE.



THAT'S THE RESULT OF FIGHTING BEARS IN THE MOUNTAINS.

I DIDN'T FIGHT BEARS!

...NOT MADE FOR INTERACTING WITH PEOPLE.



YOU MAY  
BE A BLACK  
BELT FIGHTER,  
BUT YOU'RE  
STILL A WHITE  
BELT IN  
DEALING WITH  
PEOPLE.

IF YOU  
DON'T, YOU'LL  
NEVER BE ABLE  
TO CARE ABOUT  
ANYONE BUT  
YOURSELF.

YOU'RE  
MISSING  
MY POINT.  
IT'S THE  
SAME AS  
INTERACTING  
WITH PEOPLE.

FOR THE  
SAKE OF THE  
GIRL WHO  
WILL ONE  
DAY TELL  
YOU SHE  
LOVES YOU...

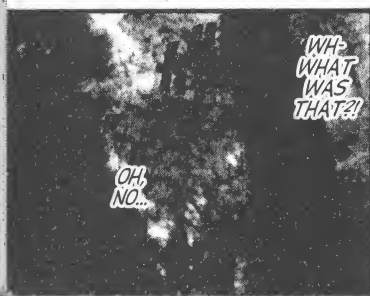
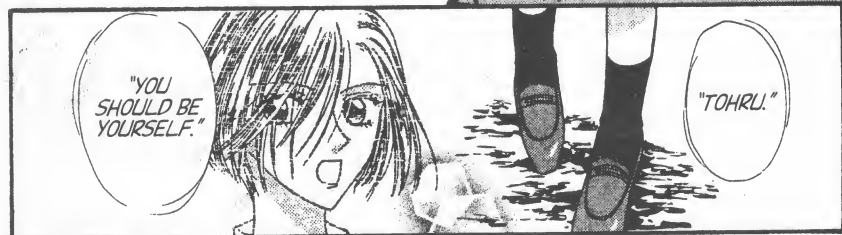
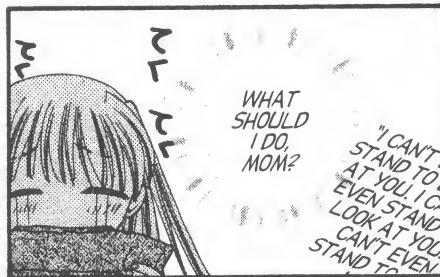
BUT  
TRAINING  
FOR THAT  
ISN'T IN THE  
MOUNTAINS--  
IT HAS TO  
BE IN TOWN  
WHERE  
PEOPLE  
LIVE.

MINGLING WITH  
PEOPLE, HURTING  
THEM, GETTING  
HURT BY THEM...

THAT'S HOW  
YOU LEARN  
ABOUT OTHERS...  
AND ABOUT  
YOURSELF.

...DON'T  
RUN AWAY.  
KEEP  
TRAINING.







NOOO!

A  
PERVERT?!

COULD  
IT BE ONE  
OF THOSE  
GEEKS THEY  
WARNED ME  
ABOUT?



"NO!"  
MAN, SHE  
MUST REALLY  
HATE ME. WAS  
IT SOMETHING  
I SAID?

They're  
both  
shouting  
in their  
heads.

HOW DO I  
EXPLAIN THAT I  
MISTOOK HIM  
FOR A PERVERT?!  
I JUST SCREAMED  
"NO!" AT HIM  
AND...

UH, UM...  
HOW DID  
YOU... LIKE  
SCHOOL, KYO-  
SAN...?

STOP  
IT.

BUT ENOUGH  
ABOUT  
ME! WERE YOU  
TAKING A WALK,  
KYO-SAN?

UH-uh-  
uh-um...  
I JUST  
HIT YOU  
WITH MY  
BAG... BUT  
I GUESS  
YOU KNOW  
THAT.





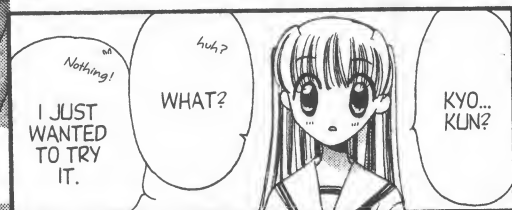
DON'T  
CALL MY  
NAME IF YOU'VE  
GOT NOTHING  
TO SAY!

OKAY!



BEING  
CALLED  
"SAN"  
MAKES ME  
TWITCH.

JUST  
CALL  
ME  
KYO.



Nothing!  
I JUST  
WANTED  
TO TRY  
IT.

WHAT?

KYO...  
KUN?



AND...  
I TAKE  
BACK WHAT  
I SAID ABOUT  
NOT WANTING  
TO LOOK  
AT YOU.

AND  
IF I DO  
SOMETHING  
TO PISS  
YOU OFF...

...YOU  
CAN  
HIT  
ME.



YOU CAN  
CALL MY  
NAME EVEN  
IF YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
ANYTHING  
TO SAY.

AH.

OH...  
NEVER  
MIND.

IT'S  
OKAY.



...MAYBE HE  
WAS TRYING  
TO APOLOGIZE  
FOR HURTING  
ME.

AND  
BACK  
THEN...

IS THAT  
WHY HE'S  
HERE?

Gasp

UH,  
UM...



OH--  
I WASN'T MAD.  
I HIT YOU WITH  
MY BAG BECAUSE  
I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE A  
PERVERT!

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
LOVED THE  
CAT FROM  
THE ZODIAC!



A  
per-  
vert  
?!

P-

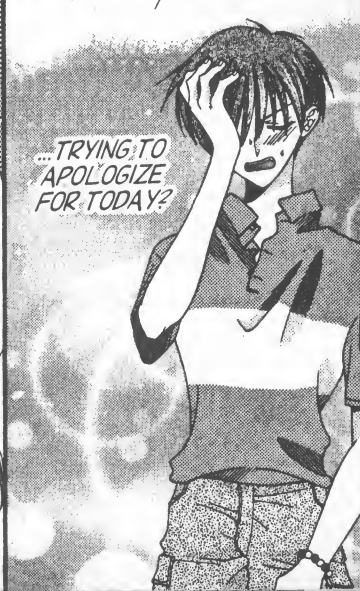
I MEAN,  
I'D NEVER  
BE MAD  
AT YOU.

HOW  
COULD  
I BE?  
I LOVE  
YOU.



IS HE...

...TRYING TO  
APOLOGIZE  
FOR TODAY?



IT'S  
TRUE.  
I...

...I WANTED  
TO BE BORN  
IN THE YEAR  
OF THE CAT.

HUH?

"IF A  
GIRL  
TOLD  
YOU...

I MEAN,  
UM, I...

...SHE  
LOVED  
YOU."

!!

...I WANT  
TO BE  
FRIENDS.

"AND IF  
SOMEONE  
DID, WHAT  
WOULD  
YOU DO?"



...I'VE STARTED  
TO UNDERSTAND  
KYO-KLIN.

HE'S MORE  
AWKWARD THAN  
MOST...

Let's  
just go  
home.

SOMEHOW...

...BUT  
DEEP DOWN,  
HE'S A NICE  
PERSON.



THAT'S  
STU-!



IT'S  
NOT THAT  
GREAT.

BEING  
A CAT.



STOP THAT!  
IT WASN'T  
LIKE THAT!

KYO-KUN  
AND  
TOHRU  
SITTING  
IN A TREE...  
K... I... S--

You know  
how it goes.



OKAY.

YESTERDAY  
WAS A  
FLUKE.  
IT WON'T  
HAPPEN  
AGAIN!  
EVER!



*SOMEONE  
SINCERE WHO  
SPEAKS FROM  
THE HEART.*

*A GOOD PERSON.*

SO, KYO-KUN...  
I HEAR YOU  
WALKED OUR  
LITTLE TOHRU  
HOME. HOW WAS  
YOUR DATE?



IT'S...



HUH?  
UH...



I'M JUST HAPPY  
THAT YOU'RE  
EATING MY FOOD.

DO YOU  
LIKE IT?!

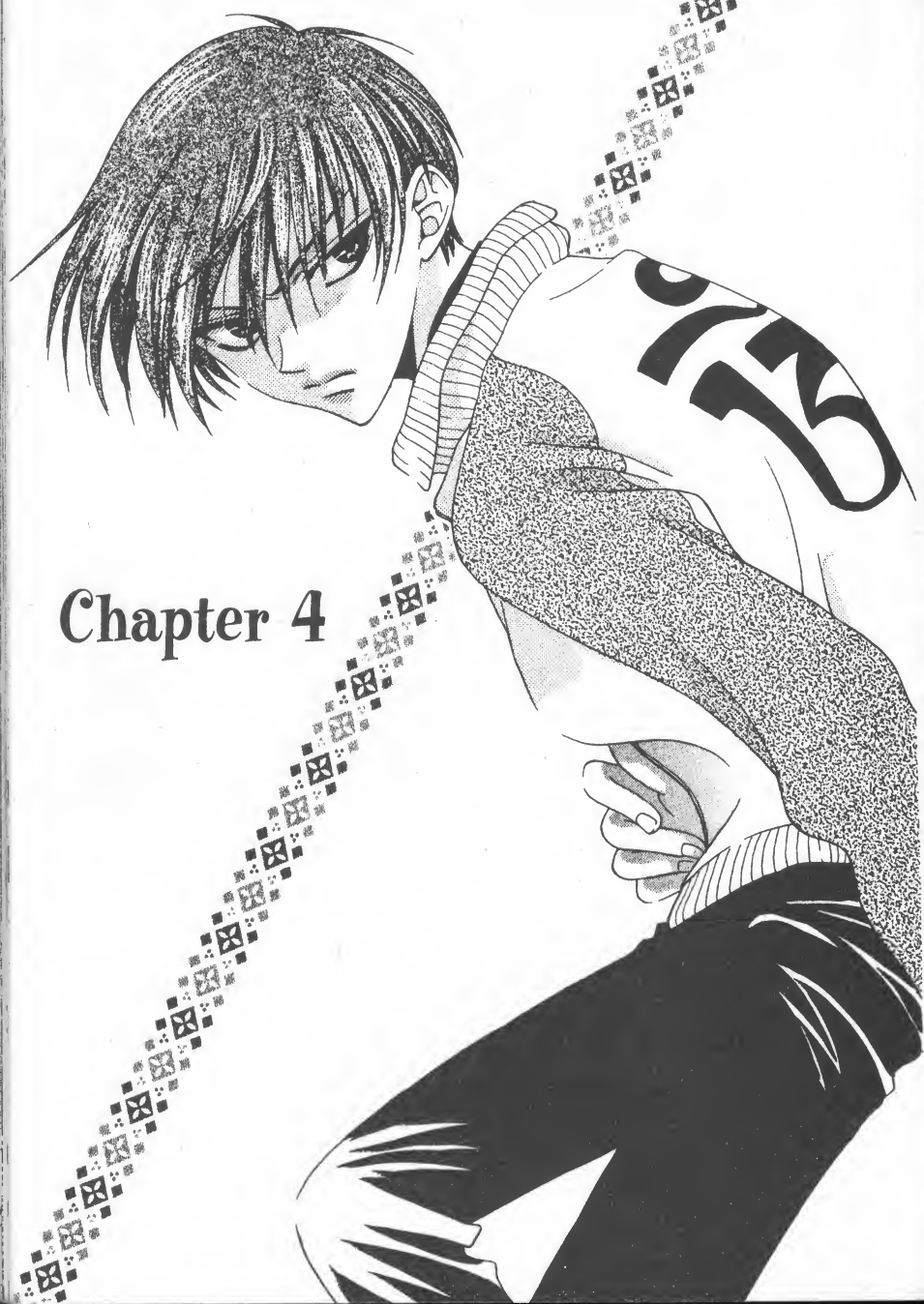


THINGS SHOULD BE A LOT HAPPIER AROUND THE SOHMA HOUSE FROM NOW ON.

Well, hopefully-- but you never can tell.



## Chapter 4





### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 3.

When I drew Uo-chan, people asked me, "Sensei, did you used to be a Yankee?" Well, I wasn't a Yankee, but I wasn't exactly an honor student, either. Most people don't understand about Hana-chan's "poison waves," either. Apparently there's a video game called "Pange Reef" with poison waves, but I didn't play it until after I'd started the manga.

### Number 5:

"How do you name your characters in video games?" I'm asked. Well, I usually put in my own name. I stopped for a while, but then I started doing it again. Of course, I say "my own name," but Natsuki Takaya is a pen name (laugh). If it was my real name, then, yeah, I might think it was a little embarrassing. I don't think it's bad though. Because it's my game to enjoy my own way. So now, when I become friends with people in the game "Tokyo Friend," they call me "Takayan."



For rules on how to play Dai Hin Min visit [www.TOKYOPOP.com](http://www.TOKYOPOP.com) and click on Fruit Basket!



REVOLUTION!!

I UNDERSTAND IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR YOU TO HAVE A NORMAL GIRL AS YOUR GIRL-FRIEND!



YUKI-KUN, YOU'RE SUCH A NICE PERSON...

...BUT SOME PART OF YOU KEEPS REJECTING OTHER PEOPLE.



THEY SAY, "YUKI-KUN IS SPECIAL."

EH...?

EVERYONE HAS NOTICED!

IT'S IN THE DAMN RULES!

SON OF A... WHAT KIND OF TRICK ARE YOU PULLING?!

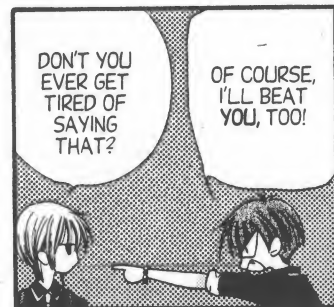
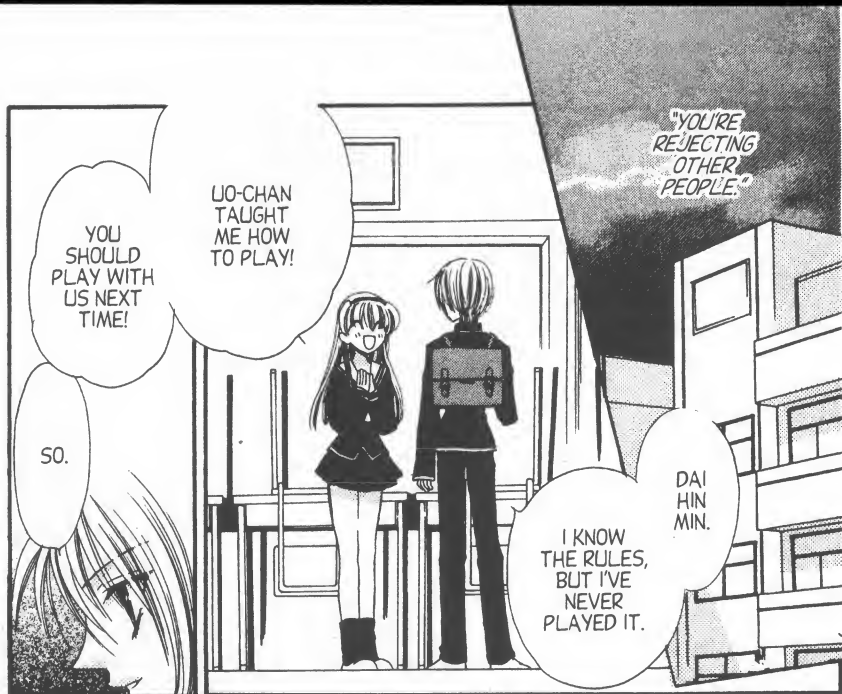
Rotten punk!

WHEN YOU PLAY A "REVOLUTION," THE "RICH MAN" AND "POOR MAN" TRADE PLACES.

SECRET TECHNIQUE...









IT'S  
SO UNFAIR  
THAT I KEEP  
HAVING TO  
TAKE ABUSE  
JUST BECAUSE  
YOU CAN'T  
MEET YOUR  
GOALS.

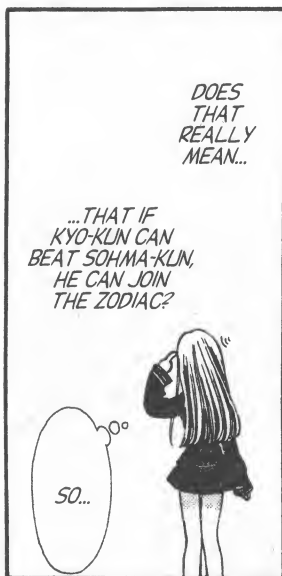
IT'S MY  
GOAL IN  
LIFE!

BEATING  
YOU IS MY  
VOCATION!!



AND THAT  
REVOLTING  
THOUGHT  
PROCESS  
OF YOURS  
PISSES  
ME OFF.

THAT CON-  
DESCENDING  
ATTITUDE  
OF YOURS  
REALLY  
PISSES ME  
OFF!!



DOES  
THAT  
REALLY  
MEAN...

...THAT IF  
KYO-KUN CAN  
BEAT SOHMA-KUN,  
HE CAN JOIN  
THE ZODIAC?

SO...



"I WILL  
BEAT YOU! I'LL  
BEAT YOU AND  
BECOME ONE OF  
THE ZODIAC!"



TH-THEY'RE  
FIGHTING  
AGAIN...

THIS GOES  
DEEPER THAN  
THE CAT  
AND RAT...



COME  
TO THINK  
OF IT...

Oh.



BUT  
FIGHTING  
IS BAD. I'M  
SURE OF  
THAT.

YOU  
BASTARD—  
I'LL TAKE  
YOU  
DOWN!

THAT  
WOULD BE  
WONDERFUL  
FOR THE  
CAT!

I DON'T  
KNOW  
HOW THAT  
WOULD  
WORK,  
BUT...

...CAT COULD  
BE PART OF  
THE CHINESE  
ZODIAC AFTER  
ALL?



UM,  
KYO-  
KUN...

SAY YOUR  
PRAYERS,  
HEARTLESS  
RAT!







WHY  
CAN'T  
I BEAT  
HIM?



カラカラ...

AH...

SO-  
SOHMA-  
KUN...



...GAH!



I KEEP  
GETTING  
BEATEN.

I MUST  
SEEM SO  
PATHETIC.

Sigh



I'M FINE,  
JUST GO.  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE!

AS IF  
I'D BE SO  
STUPID.

KYO-  
KUN, DID YOU  
BITE YOUR  
TONGUE...?



...NO... I  
MEAN...

AH...

WHY...  
DO YOU...?



humpf  
MUST  
BE IN  
A BAD  
MOOD.

"I'M  
REALLY  
GETTING  
SICK OF  
LOOKING  
AT YOU."



EH?

NOTHING.

ANYWAY,  
SHOULDN'T YOU  
BE LEAVING?  
YOU HAVE  
WORK TODAY.



HE  
WENT  
PRETTY  
HARD  
ON ME  
TODAY.

OW!



GOOD  
WORK.

HEY,  
OVER HERE,  
TANIGAWA-  
SAN.



SOHMA-  
KUN...

...IS SO  
SENSITIVE  
ABOUT  
WHAT  
OTHERS  
THINK  
ABOUT  
HIM.

HE MUST  
KEEP ALL  
HIS FEELINGS  
LOCKED UP  
INSIDE OF HIM.





COULD  
IT...

...BE?



LOOK  
AT THAT  
BEAUTIFUL  
PERSON  
OVER  
THERE.

I CAN'T  
TELL  
IF IT'S  
A GIRL  
OR A  
BOY.

OH, YOU'RE  
SUCH A  
GAWKER!

あはは



YOU  
AND KYO-  
KUN  
ARE SO  
KIND...!

YEAH... IT'S  
DANGEROUS  
FOR A GIRL TO  
BE OUT ALONE  
AT THIS TIME  
OF NIGHT.

THANK YOU  
SO MUCH.



It is!

SOHMA-  
KUN...!

Y-YOU  
CAME ALL THE  
WAY HERE TO  
PICK ME UP?!

HEY... YOU  
MUST BE  
TIRED.



Stop  
flirting and  
go home,  
you kids!



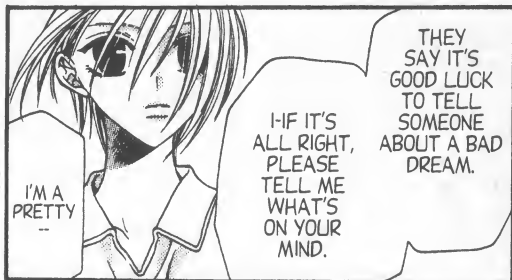
...SOMETHING  
WEIGHING  
ON YOUR MIND,  
YOU CAN  
TALK TO ME,  
OKAY?

SOHMA-KUN,  
UM, IF  
THERE'S  
EVER...

AH...

HUH?

WELL,  
SHALL  
WE GO?



I'M A  
PRETTY

I-IF IT'S  
ALL RIGHT,  
PLEASE  
TELL ME  
WHAT'S  
ON YOUR  
MIND.


THEY  
SAY IT'S  
GOOD LUCK  
TO TELL  
SOMEONE  
ABOUT A BAD  
DREAM.



NO, IT'S MY  
FAULT FOR  
HAVING THIS  
"CONDITION."

BUT THEN,  
I'LL PROBABLY  
JUST MAKE  
YOUR PROBLEMS  
WORSE.

I'M A  
PRETTY  
GOOD  
LISTENER.



I ALWAYS  
WANTED  
TO HAVE A  
"NORMAL" LIFE,  
SURROUNDED  
BY "NORMAL"  
PEOPLE.

SO I APPLIED  
TO A CO-ED  
SCHOOL AND  
LEFT HOME.

WHEN  
I WAS AT  
THE MAIN  
HOUSE...

...IT FELT  
LIKE I WAS  
IN A CAGE,  
ALWAYS BEING  
WATCHED  
BY THE  
FAMILY AND  
AKITO.



I CUT  
MYSELF  
OFF FROM  
OTHER  
PEOPLE...

...BECAUSE  
I'M AFRAID  
OF GETTING  
HURT.  
AND...

I DON'T  
MEAN  
TO TURN  
THEM  
AWAY.

BUT  
SOME  
PART OF  
ME CAN'T  
DEAL WITH  
PEOPLE.

I JUST  
WOUND UP  
IN ANOTHER  
SOHMA  
HOUSE.

BUT I  
COULDN'T  
GET OUT OF  
THE CAGE  
AFTER  
ALL.



AND  
I STILL  
CAN'T  
ASSOCIATE  
WITH  
"NORMAL"  
PEOPLE.



THAT'S  
WHY  
I GET  
ANNOYED...

...WISHED I  
COULD BE  
LIKE THAT  
TOO.

...WHEN  
I LOOK  
AT KYO, WHO  
WANTS TO BE  
A SOHMA.



...HE  
MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO  
INTERACT  
WITH NORMAL  
PEOPLE AND  
HAVE A  
NORMAL  
LIFE.

EVEN  
IF HE CAN'T  
JOIN THE  
ZODIAC...



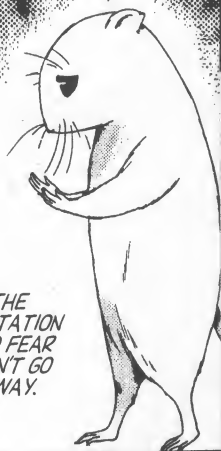
THAT'S  
WHY...

...I'VE  
ALWAYS...



...BECAUSE  
I'M LIKE  
THIS.

THE  
HESITATION  
AND FEAR  
WON'T GO  
AWAY.



BUT...  
KYO IS  
DIFFERENT.  
HE MIGHT BE  
EXTREMELY  
SHY...

...BUT IF HE  
GETS USED TO  
BEING AROUND  
PEOPLE, I THINK  
HE'S THE TYPE  
THAT ATTRACTS  
OTHERS... THAT  
HAS MANY  
FRIENDS.





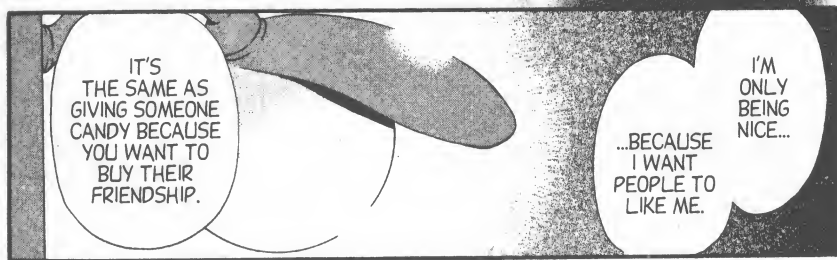
THEY SAY  
YOU'RE VERY  
KIND.

YOU HAVE  
POWER TO  
ATTRACT  
PEOPLE TOO,  
SOHMA-KUN.

LOTS OF  
GIRLS LIKE  
YOU.

WHAT  
DOES THAT  
MAKE ME,  
WHO WANTS  
TO RUN  
AWAY FROM IT  
ALL?

I  
WONDER.



IT'S  
THE SAME AS  
GIVING SOMEONE  
CANDY BECAUSE  
YOU WANT TO  
BUY THEIR  
FRIENDSHIP.

...BECAUSE  
I WANT  
PEOPLE TO  
LIKE ME.

I'M  
ONLY  
BEING  
NICE...

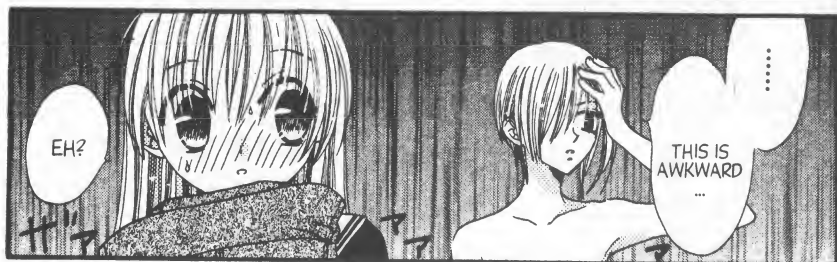
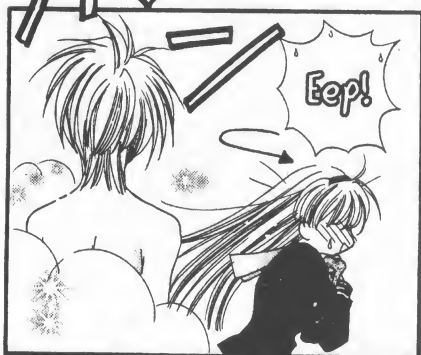


SOH--!

MAYBE  
I'M A  
HYPOCRITE.

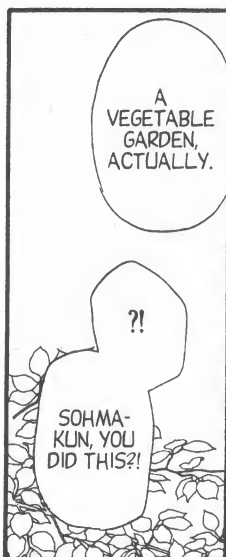


MY BEING  
NICE IS  
ENTIRELY  
SELFISH.





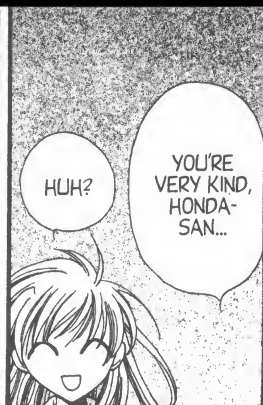






THAT'S  
THE FIRST  
TIME ANYONE'S  
EVER TOLD  
ME THAT!

EH...  
EEHH?!  
BUT...!



HUH?

YOU'RE  
VERY KIND,  
HONDA-  
SAN...



NO, WITH  
HONDA-SAN  
IT'S GENUINE.

↑  
Expression of  
happiness mixed  
with agitation.

HOW DO I BE  
SURE THAT I'M  
NOT JUST ACTING  
KIND SO THAT  
PEOPLE WILL  
THINK I'M A GOOD  
PERSON?!

I'M SO  
HAPPY...  
OH! BUT--  
BUT--




SELFISH  
INSTINCTS,  
I GUESS.

WHEN  
WE'RE BORN,  
ALL WE HAVE  
ARE DESIRES  
FOR FOOD  
AND MATERIAL  
THINGS.

...IT'S  
BETTER  
TO TRUST  
PEOPLE  
THAN TO  
DOUBT  
THEM.

MOM  
TOLD  
ME...


SHE  
SAID THAT  
PEOPLE AREN'T  
BORN WITH  
KIND HEARTS.



THAT'S WHY  
KINDNESS IS  
DIFFERENT FOR  
EVERY PERSON.

BUT SHE  
SAID THAT  
KINDNESS  
IS SOMETHING  
THAT GROWS  
INSIDE  
OF EACH PERSON'S  
BODY...

...BUT IT'S UP  
TO US TO  
NURTURE THAT  
KINDNESS  
IN OUR  
HEARTS.



...SO IT'S EASY  
TO MISUNDERSTAND  
WHEN OTHERS ARE  
TRYING TO BE KIND  
TO YOU."

"WE'RE ALL  
BORN WITH  
SELFISH DESIRES,  
SO WE CAN ALL  
RELATE TO THOSE  
FEELINGS IN  
OTHERS."

"BUT  
KINDNESS IS  
SOMETHING MADE  
INDIVIDUALLY BY  
EACH PERSON..."

... WHEN  
I THOUGHT  
OF ALL THE  
DIFFERENT  
SHAPES OF  
HUMAN KINDNESS--  
IMAGINING THEM  
AS ROUND  
OR SQUARE...

...I GOT  
REALLY  
EXCITED.

MOM  
TAUGHT  
ME THAT  
PEOPLE'S  
DIFFERENCES  
ARE SOME-  
THING TO  
CELEBRATE.




"BUT  
TOHRLI..."









...WILL  
BE YOUR  
STRENGTH.

L  
E  
E  
K  
S  
!

THE  
LEEK  
S  
MAY  
BE  
READY.

IS ANYTHING  
READY TO  
HARVEST?

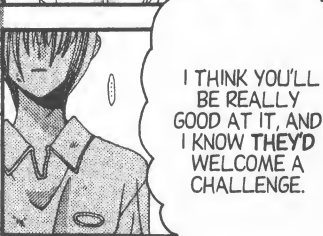
YES, BUT  
AT WHAT  
COST?

WE  
PROTECTED  
IT TO THE  
VERY END!

It seems it's actually better to harvest them in the second year.

HONDA-  
SAN.

LEEK,  
LEEK  
...





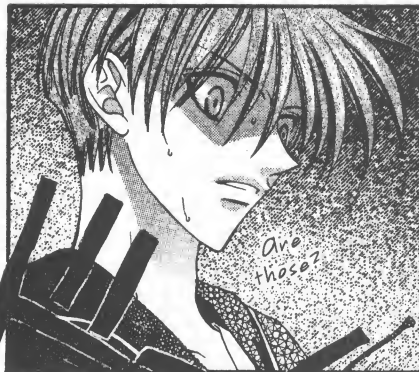
IF ONLY  
HE COULD  
SMILE LIKE  
THAT AT  
SCHOOL ONE  
DAY.

HED  
BE EVEN  
MORE  
POPULAR.

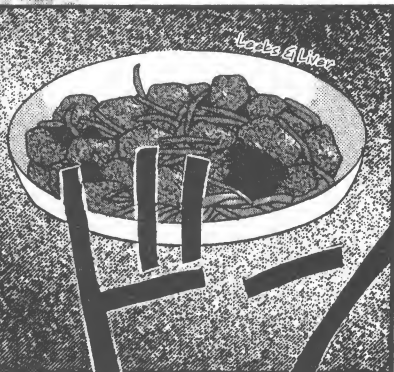
...I FEEL  
LIKE I'M  
SEEING  
HIS TRUE  
SMILE.

FOR THE  
FIRST  
TIME...

If we  
don't go  
home and  
dry off...  
...we'll  
catch  
cold.



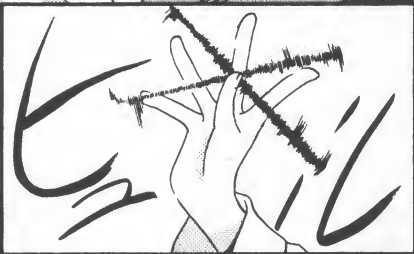
Are  
those?

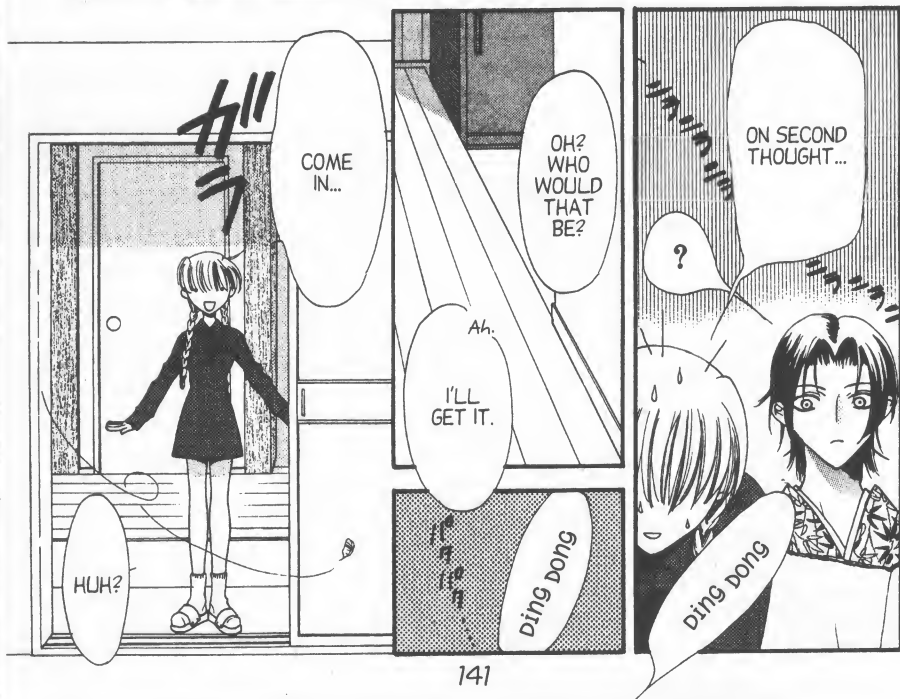


Looks a little



By the way, this is Sunday.



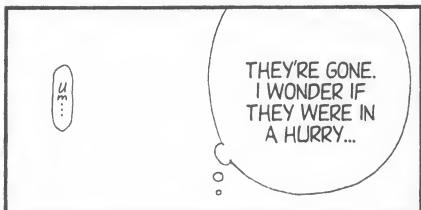




YOU'RE  
TOHRU  
HONDA-  
SAN...

...  
AREN'T  
YOU?

UM...  
UM, I...



THEY'RE GONE.  
I WONDER IF  
THEY WERE IN  
A HURRY...



PL-

PLEASED  
TO  
MEET  
YOU...

UM...!



...THAT  
KYO-KUN  
IS HERE?

I'M  
KAGURA  
SOHMA...

UM,  
IS IT  
TRUE...





## Chapter 5

Omake Theater 3: Are you kidding or are you serious?





#### **ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 4.**

I couldn't help wanting to draw a girl like Kagura. So I'm pleased (ha ha). I thought the opinions on her would be divided between, "She's hilarious!" and "Why does she hit him? That's so mean!" and I was right. She hits him because she loves him. It's the ultimate expression of love (ha ha).



# Number 6:

I have the Internet now. I feel weird about the Internet. I think it's a world that's there but not, and fake but real; I don't know what to call it (ha ha). It reminds me of "Soul Hackers." Yeah! I'm about half way through that game right now. Oh, no... I'm bubbling again—stay on target! I'm really getting into surfing around and checking out people's home pages. Home pages, huh...? I think I'd like to make one of my own, but I don't know how. If someone started one for me...? (ha ha) My home page would probably just talk about video games all the time!



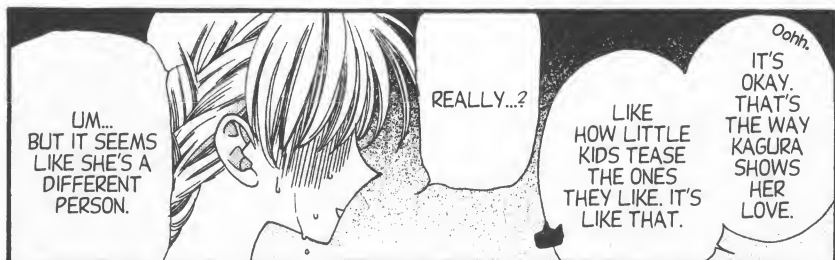






I  
Missed  
you!





...SHE'S ONE  
OF THE  
CHINESE  
ZODIAC.

STILL,  
SHE'S TWO  
YEARS OLDER  
THAN WE  
ARE.

SHE GETS  
LIKE THAT,  
ESPECIALLY  
WHEN KYO IS  
INVOLVED.

AND...

IF YOU KEEP  
WATCHING, I  
THINK YOU'LL  
FIGURE IT  
OUT...

WHICH  
ANIMAL IS  
SHE?!

I  
KNEW  
IT!

GUH!

!

OH  
DEAR.

I'VE  
FIGURED  
OUT THAT  
KYO-KUN  
LOOKS LIKE  
HE'S ABOUT  
TO DIE!



YOU  
WOULD.

WHO  
WOULD DO  
SUCH A  
TERRIBLE  
THING?!

KYO-  
KUN...?

YOU'RE SO  
BATTERED!

WHO DID  
THIS?



BIT  
NIPPY,  
ISN'T  
IT?

ANYBODY  
FEEL A  
DRAFT?

I'M  
SORRY



SHE'S  
CHANGED  
AGAIN.

SO  
SHE'S ONE  
OF THE  
CHINESE  
ZODIAC...



I'M  
SORRY.

I WAS SO  
TOUCHED AT  
BEING ABLE  
TO SEE KYO-  
KUN THAT I  
WAS HAPPY  
WITH ALL MY  
MIGHT!



WHEN  
DID YOU  
DECIDE  
THAT?!

BECAUSE  
WE'RE  
GOING  
TO BE  
MARRIED!



BUT  
IT'S KYO-  
KUN'S  
FAULT,  
TOO.

I WONDER  
WHICH  
ANIMAL  
SHE IS?

DISAPPEARING  
FOR FOUR  
MONTHS  
WITHOUT SO  
MUCH AS A  
PHONE CALL!

WHY  
THE HELL  
WOULD  
I CALL YOU?

Although  
Kyo's not  
officially  
a member  
of the  
zodiac.

BUT  
MARRIAGE  
BETWEEN  
MEMBERS OF  
THE ZODIAC IS  
THE MOST  
WONDERFUL  
THING IN THE  
WORLD!

WHO  
ELSE CAN  
UNDERSTAND  
THE PAIN  
OF BEING  
POSSESSED  
BY A  
VENGEFUL  
SPIRIT?

AND  
BETTER  
STILL...



CON-  
GRATU-  
LATIONS.

THAT'S  
SO GREAT  
THAT YOU  
FOUND  
SOMEONE  
TO BE YOUR  
WIFE.

YOU'RE  
ENGAGED  
?!  
*That's  
wonderful!*

CUT-IT-OUT!!



THAT'S  
BECAUSE YOU  
THREATENED  
ME!

WHEN  
WE WERE  
LITTLE, HE  
SAID HE'D  
MAKE ME  
HIS BRIDE.









EH...?

...YOU'RE  
MY RIVAL?!

NO...



KYO-  
KUN SURE  
CAVES  
UNDER  
PRESSURE  
...

I ASKED  
IF YOU  
THOUGHT  
SO TOO!



You're a  
fan of the  
-cat!

BUT YOU  
LIKE KYO-KUN  
TOO, RIGHT  
TOHRU-KUN?



EVEN  
IF HE TURNS  
INTO HIS TRUE  
FORM...



I'LL TAKE HIS  
GOOD TRAITS  
WITH HIS BAD!



WHAT  
DO YOU  
LIKE ABOUT  
KYO-KUN?!  
I LOVE  
EVERYTHING  
ABOUT  
HIM!

WELL,  
I WON'T LOSE!  
MY LOVE CAN  
OVERCOME ANY  
OBSTACLE!

UM...

HEY...



.. ENOUGH!

THAT'S...

I'LL  
STAND  
BY HI--



HIS  
TRUE...

...  
FORM?

....  
?

KEEP  
TALKING  
LIKE  
THAT...

...AND I'LL  
NEVER  
FORGIVE  
YOU!



I WONDER WHAT SHE MEANS BY TRUE FORM.

IT LOOKS LIKE KYO'S THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE FORGIVEN.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME?!

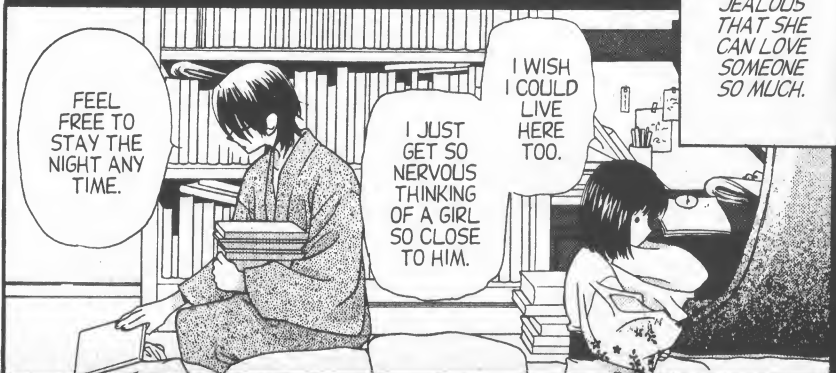
Owwwwww!



BUT PUTTING THAT ASIDE...

...IT REALLY SEEMS LIKE KAGURA-SAN LOVES KYO-KUN SO MUCH SHE CAN'T STAND IT.

I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD MY FIRST LOVE...



FEEL FREE TO STAY THE NIGHT ANY TIME.

I JUST GET SO NERVOUS THINKING OF A GIRL SO CLOSE TO HIM.

I WISH I COULD LIVE HERE TOO.

...SO I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS THAT SHE CAN LOVE SOMEONE SO MUCH.



I KNEW  
THERE  
WAS  
SOME-  
THING...

I FORGOT  
TO DRY MY  
UNIFORM.

CLUNK

SOME-  
ONE'S  
ON THE  
ROOF?



WHAT  
ARE YOU DOING  
UP THERE?

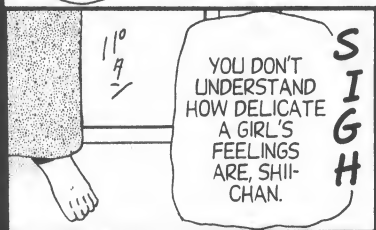
KYO-KUN!

WAH?!



IF IT'S  
GOING TO  
BE THIS  
WAY, THEN  
I'LL MAKE  
HIM MINE  
TONIGHT!

YOU'RE NOT  
ALLOWED TO  
LEAVE YOUR  
ROOM UNTIL  
MORNING.  
Try not  
to break  
anything.



YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
HOW DELICATE  
A GIRL'S  
FEELINGS  
ARE, SHII-  
CHAN.

S  
I  
G  
H



EVEN  
I...

...KNOW WHAT  
IT'S LIKE TO  
BE JEALOUS.



I'LL NEVER GET ANY PEACE AS LONG AS SHE'S AROUND!

OF COURSE IT'S BAD!

Never  
ever  
ever



THAT'S NOT IT.

I always sleep in the living room.

DID I TAKE YOUR ROOM?!

OH YEAH, YOU DON'T HAVE A ROOM...!

GASP!

KAGURA'S DOWN THERE TONIGHT...

IS IT BAD THAT SHE'S HERE?



I THINK IT'S AMAZING THAT SHE CAN LOVE SOMEONE SO MUCH.

BESIDES...

...GETTING MARRIED IS A GIRL'S GREATEST DREAM!

HNNN...? REALLY...? WHY...?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND HER.

MARRIAGE OR WHATEVER-- IT'S INSANE.

IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!





WAS IT  
HARD...?  
BEING ALL  
BY YOUR-  
SELF?

YEAH.  
SHIGURE  
TOLD  
YOU?

ISN'T  
IT YOUR  
DREAM  
TO BEAT  
SOHMA-KUN?

YOU EVEN  
RAN AWAY  
TO TRAIN  
FOR IT.



MASTER  
TRAINED ME  
SINCE I WAS  
LITTLE!

MASTER  
IS A SOHMA  
TOO, BUT  
ONE WHO  
UNDERSTANDS  
HOW I FEEL.

MASTER...  
SAN? HE  
MUST BE  
STRONG.

MASTER  
WAS WITH  
ME!

I  
WASN'T  
BY  
MYSELF.

TRAINING  
IN THE  
MOUNTAINS  
WAS HARD,  
BUT...



Pah!

OF  
COURSE!

EVEN THAT  
DAMN YUKI  
WOULD BE  
TORN APART  
BY MASTER!



I GOT  
EXCITED  
JUST  
THINKING  
ABOUT IT!

HE IS  
ACTING  
LIKE A  
LITTLE  
BOY.

THIS IS THE  
FIRST TIME  
I'VE SEEN  
KYO-KUN SO  
EXCITED.

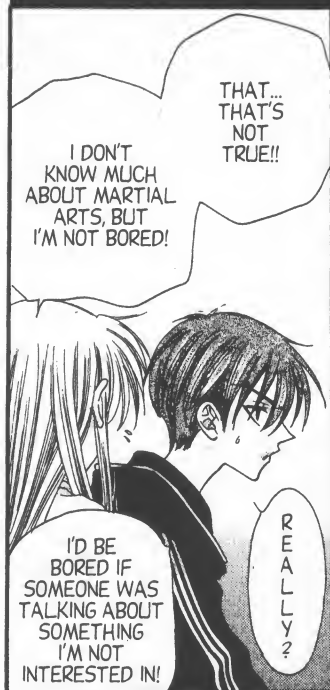
...I  
ALWAYS  
LOOKED  
FORWARD  
TO THE  
NEXT  
DAY...

SUDDENLY  
I WANT  
TO FIGHT!

aaahh!

...HOW MUCH  
STRONGER  
I'D BECOME...

...WONDERING  
WHAT I  
WOULD  
LEARN...



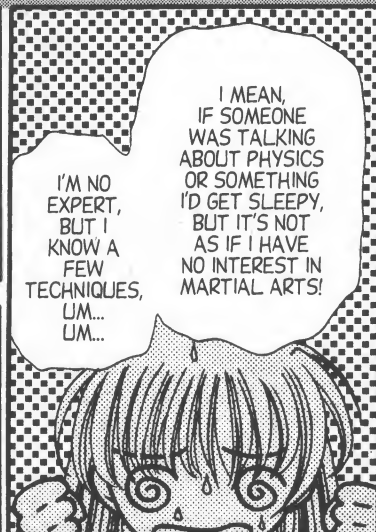
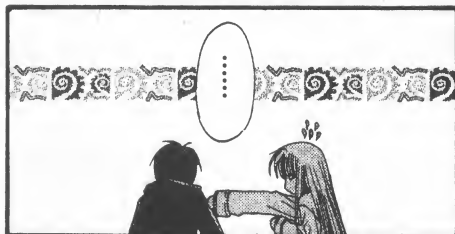
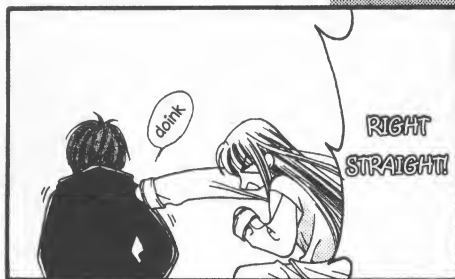
Ah!



IT'S ABOUT  
MORE THAN  
BEATING  
SOHMA-KUN.  
HE  
LOVES  
MARTIAL  
ARTS.

HUH?!

THIS MUST  
BE BORING  
FOR A GIRL TO  
LISTEN TO.





ONCE  
AGAIN...

...I'VE SEEN  
THE TRUE  
KYO-KUN.

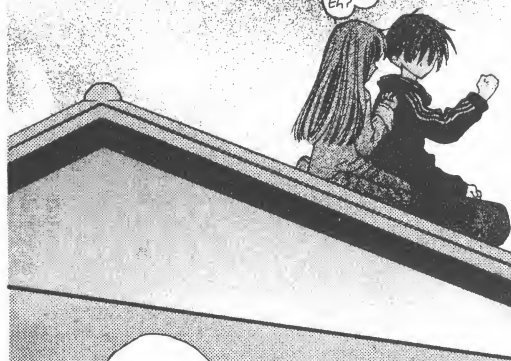
HIDDEN  
UNDER HIS  
SCOWL...

YOU  
REALLY  
SUCK, YOU  
KNOW  
THAT?

First off,  
that's not  
a normal  
technique.  
Even I get it  
wrong.

It's  
like  
this.

Eh? Eh?



...IS AN  
AWKWARD  
SMILE.

I GUESS  
THIS IS  
GOODBYE.



THEY'RE  
PRETTY  
ANIMATED  
FOR SO  
EARLY  
IN THE  
MORNING.

I WOULDN'T  
HAVE TO TAKE  
CARE IF YOU  
WOULD  
JUST STAY  
AWAY!

UNTIL  
I SEE  
YOU  
AGAIN,  
TAKE  
CARE.



KAGURAAA!

Good!  
I don't  
want  
one!

I WON'T  
GIVE YOU  
A FAREWELL  
KISS, THEN!

KAGURA-  
SAN, WATCH  
OUT! YOU'RE  
ABOUT TO--

CRASH.



INDEED. SO,  
HAVE YOU  
FIGURED OUT  
KAGURA'S  
ANIMAL?

And  
have you  
seen my  
morning  
paper!

NOT YET!

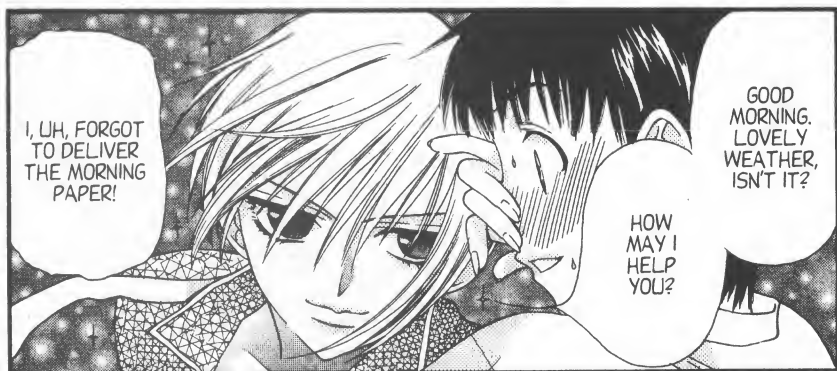


HE SAID  
IF I WATCHED  
I COULD FIGURE  
IT OUT BUT...

KYO-KUN,  
YOU IDIOT!









KAGURA-SAN IS THE YEAR OF THE BOAR!

SHIGURE-SAN, I FIGURED IT OUT!

WELL, SURE, IT'S EASY NOW.

She looks so proud of herself.

IT'S NO GOOD TO REASON IT OUT ONCE YOU'VE GOT THE ANSWER.

JUST THE LIKE BOAR!

KAGURA-SAN ALWAYS CHARGES STRAIGHT AHEAD...



KYO-KUN HAS SO MANY WONDERFUL QUALITIES!



...WHY YOU LIKE KYO-KUN SO MUCH.

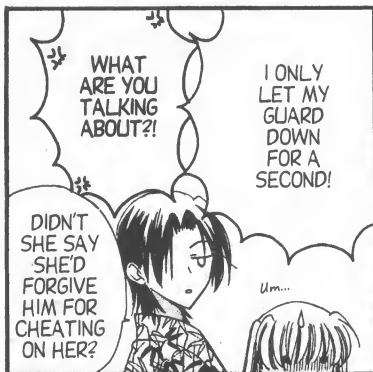
KAGURA-SAN, I THINK I KNOW...



I'M IMPRESSED! SHE'S SUCH A CUTE PIG!

SHE'S NOT LISTENING.

Oh well.





STRAWBERRIES?!  
I LOVE STRAW-  
BERRIES!

YEAH.  
STRAW-  
BERRIES.

WERE  
YOU GOING  
TO PLANT  
SOMETHING  
NEW AT  
YOUR  
BASE?!





WE'RE  
GONNA  
BE LATE.



OH ...

FOR SOME  
REASON...



...YOU  
WOULD.

I  
HOPED...



CHECK OUT

I WANT  
TO GET TO  
KNOW THEM  
BETTER.

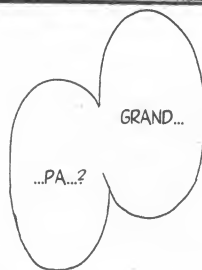
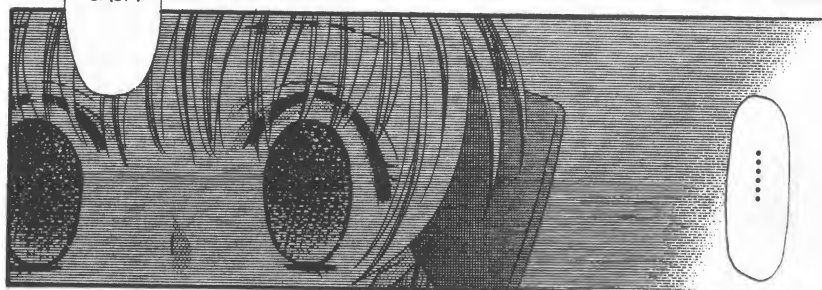
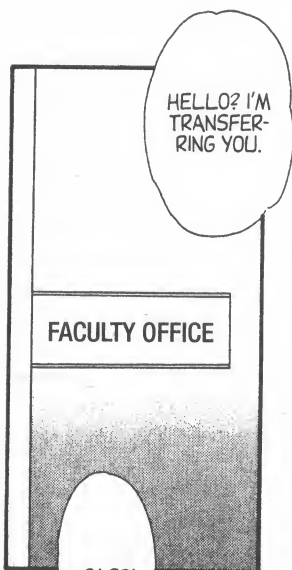
KYO-KLIN  
AND  
SOHMA-  
KLIN.  
THEIR  
LIKES AND  
DISLIKES...

...I SUDDENLY  
FEEL INSPIRED!

COOL

PLEASANT  
TABLE GARDEN

MARTIAL ARTS:  
THE PASSIONATE SOUL





IT'S  
OVER.

THE  
REMODEL-  
ING...  
...IS  
FINISHED.

TODAY...

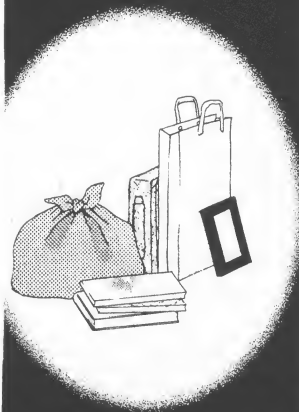
...FROM  
GRAND-  
PA.

...I GOT A  
PHONE  
CALL...

SO...

*...BUT I MADE  
THE MISTAKE...*

*...OF THINKING  
OF THEM...*



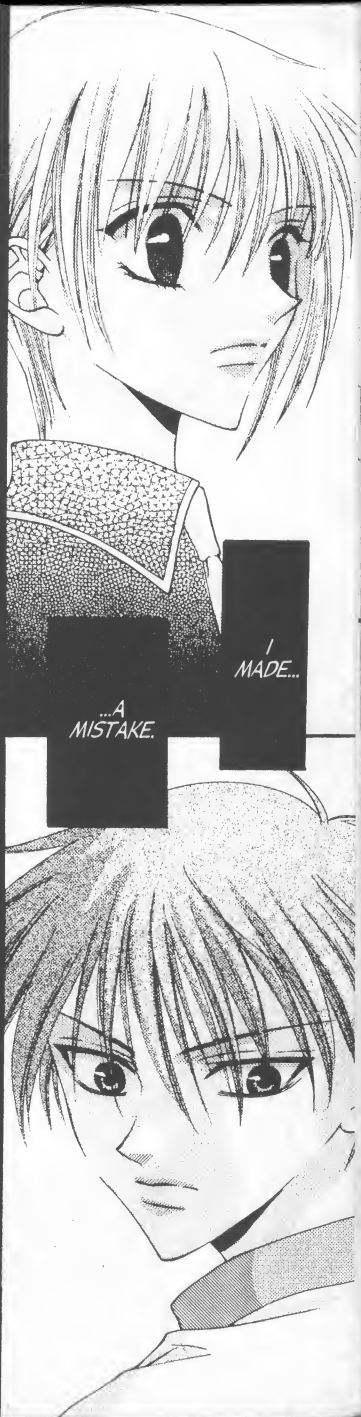
*...AS MY  
FAMILY.*

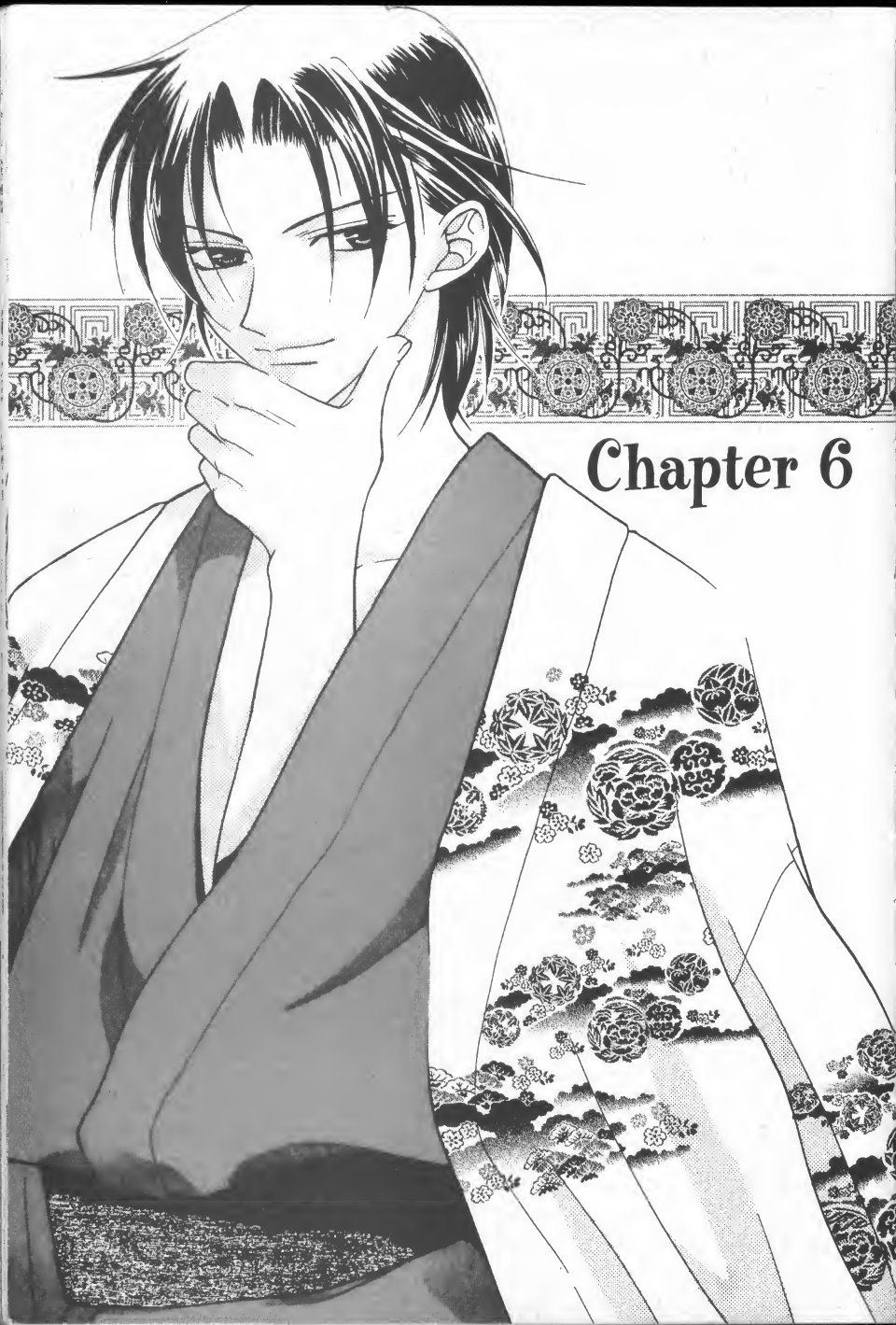
*I WAS  
NEVER GOING  
TO BE  
MORE THAN...*

*...A  
TEMP-  
ORARY  
GUEST...*

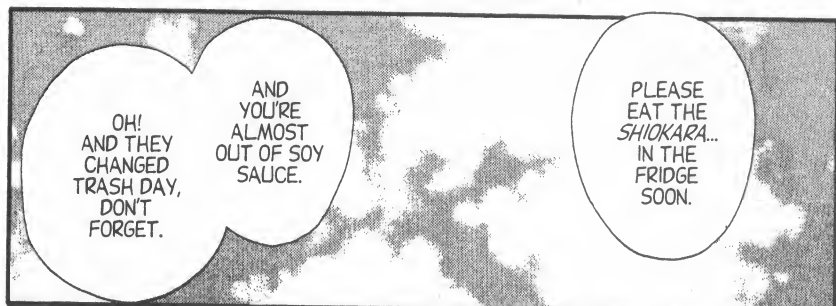
*...A  
MISTAKE.*

*I  
MADE...*





## Chapter 6



\*Salted fish guts



### ULTRA SPECIAL BLAH BLAH BLAH, NUMBER 5,

This series is kind of turning into a sitcom, but I don't really think of it as a comedy when I draw it. I mean -- it is funny (Of course I don't mind if people call it a comedy. I love comedies. Especially dry humor). I just kind of feel like, "Oh. Is it?" I have no idea what I'm trying to say.



I WON'T  
ALLOW  
FOR  
SADNESS.

I  
WILL!



I'LL  
TAKE THE  
SOHMA  
SECRET  
TO MY  
GRAVE.  
I'LL NEVER  
TELL  
ANYONE!

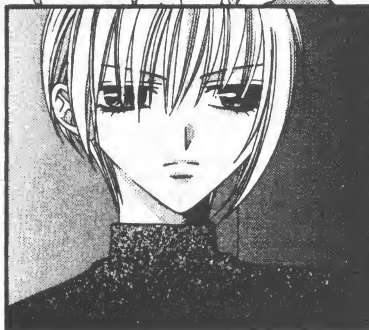
THANK  
YOU FOR  
TAKING  
SUCH GOOD  
CARE OF  
US.

NO, I  
SHOULD  
THANK  
YOU...!



JUST  
DO  
YOUR  
BEST...

...IN  
YOUR  
NEW  
HOME  
TOO.



I  
THOUGHT  
YOU'D  
STOP  
HER.

A BIG  
MISTAKE.



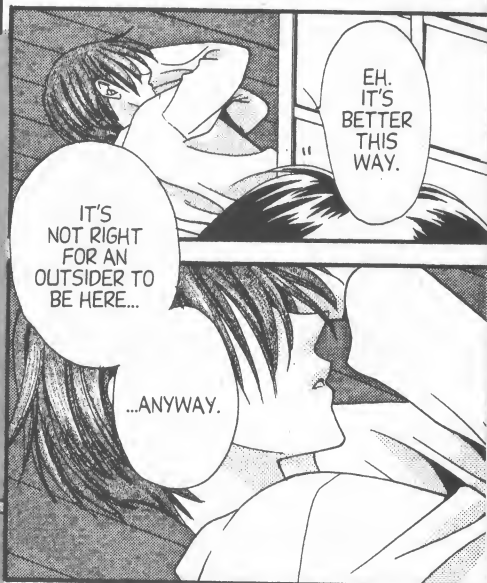
SO WHY DOES  
IT FEEL LIKE A  
FUNERAL HOME  
IN HERE?

I MADE A  
MISTAKE.



WE  
KNEW IT  
WAS ONLY  
UNTIL THE  
REMODELING  
WAS  
FINISHED.

WHY?

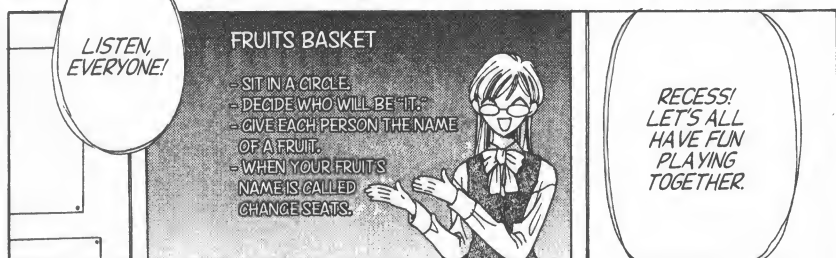


IT'S  
NOT RIGHT  
FOR AN  
OUTSIDER TO  
BE HERE...

EH.  
IT'S  
BETTER  
THIS  
WAY.

...ANYWAY.





I WAS  
VERY  
LITTLE  
THEN.

I HAD  
ALMOST  
FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT  
THAT.

...I WAITED  
FOR  
SOMEONE  
TO CALL  
"ONIGIRI."



BUT  
NO ONE  
CALLED.

ONIGIRI!  
THAT  
SOUNDS  
GOOD!

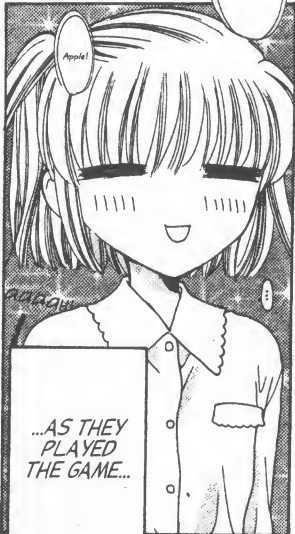
BUT  
I...



ALL  
RIGHT,  
HERE  
I GO!  
APPLE!



PEACH!



...AS THEY  
PLAYED  
THE GAME...

# Number 7:

When "Furuba" started in "Hana to Yume Magazine," there was a popularity contest.

Here are the results:

First place...

Yuki.

Second place...

Tohru.

Third place...

Kyo.

Fourth place...

Shigure.

Fifth place...

Hana.

Sixth place...

Uo.

Seventh place...

Mama.

If we do it now, we might have different results. Like, Kyo had only been around for one chapter. No one had a chance to fall in love with him yet!

Oh, and remember when Shigure teases Kyo with a song? The original words were "kyo-o-kun no su-ke-be."

(Kyo-kun is a pervert). Can you guess the tune? Don't worry about it. I don't think anyone would really know it anyway. It'll just be my secret!

...THERE WOULD NEVER BE ROOM FOR AN ONIGIRI...

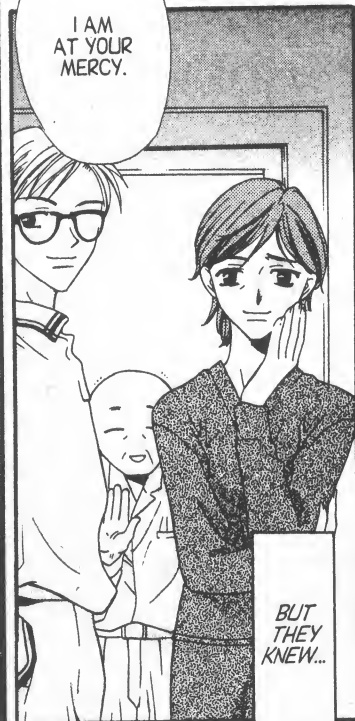


...IN A FRUITS BASKET.

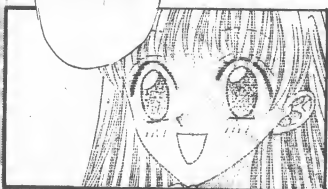
IT'S BEEN... A LONG TIME.

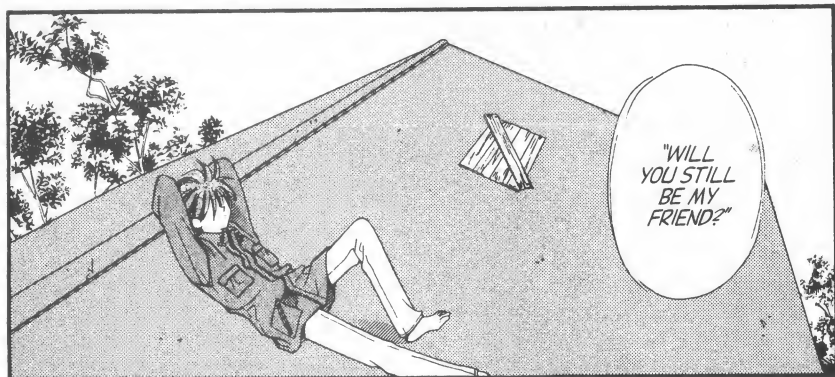
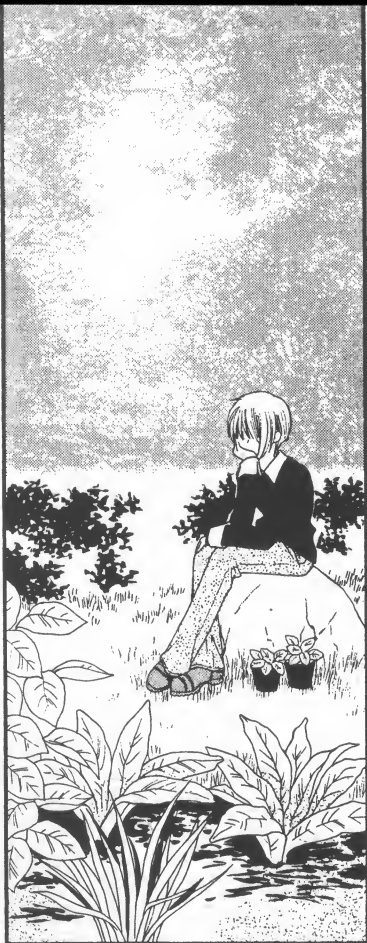


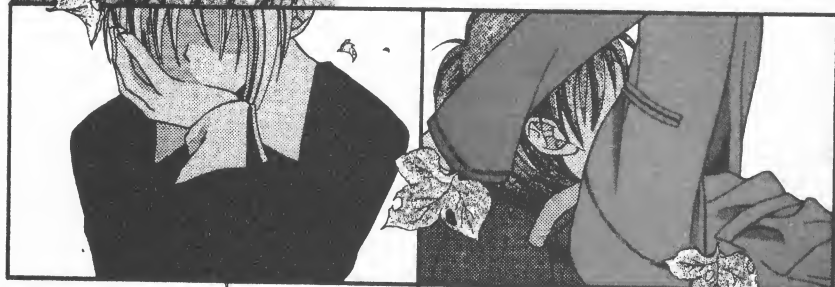
I AM AT YOUR MERCY.



BUT THEY KNEW...













BUT WE'LL  
SEE EACH  
OTHER AT  
SCHOOL...  
RIGHT?



**Martial Arts:**  
THE PASSIONATE SOUL.

Pleasant  
vegetable Garden



HEY!

ARE  
YOU DONE  
UNPACKING?!



I  
WONDER...

...IF  
EVERYONE  
ATE  
BREAKFAST.

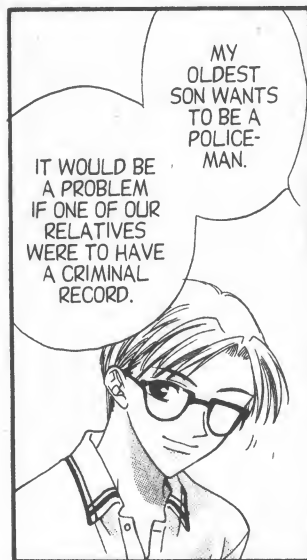
I SHOULD  
HAVE SAID  
SOMETHING  
MORE.



WHY DO  
I HAVE TO  
SHARE A  
ROOM?!

UGH. AND  
HERE WE  
FINALLY  
GOT A BIG  
HOUSE...

OH! I'M  
SORRY.  
ALMOST.





HEY,  
TOHRU-  
CHAN...

カッ

.....



THOSE  
MEN IN THAT  
HOUSE...



THEY  
DIDN'T DO  
ANYTHING...  
IMPROPER  
TO YOU,  
DID THEY?



I THOUGHT  
GOING TO A  
DETECTIVE  
MIGHT BE  
A BIT  
MUCH...

...BUT  
KYOKO-SAN  
WAS FAIRLY  
ROUGH; AND  
THEY SAY, "THE  
FRUIT DOESN'T  
FALL FAR  
FROM THE  
TREE."



SO I GOT  
NERVOUS.

K-YOKO  
IN MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

YOU HAVE  
TO KEEP ON  
THE STRAIGHT  
AND NARROW  
IF YOU PLAN  
TO STAY IN  
THIS HOUSE.





DAD...

YOU NEED  
TO LIVE  
SOMEWHERE  
WHERE YOU CAN  
SPREAD YOUR  
WINGS AND  
REALLY BE  
ALIVE.

KATSUYA  
NEEDED  
THAT TOO.

YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
TO STAY  
HERE, KYOKO-  
SAN.

IF  
THERE'S  
SOMEPLACE  
YOU'D  
RATHER  
BE, YOU  
CAN GO.

I'M AN OLD  
MAN. IF THEY  
SAY MEAN  
THINGS TO ME,  
I CAN DEAL  
WITH IT.

STILL,  
THIS IS  
WHERE  
I NEED  
TO BE.



BUT YOU  
DON'T HAVE TO  
STAY HERE.



THAT  
IS...



I'M  
NOT TRYING  
TO CHASE  
YOU OUT.

I JUST  
FEAR YOU  
WON'T  
BE HAPPY  
HERE, KYOKO-  
SAN.





MOM  
REALLY  
LOVED  
ME...

BUT THAT'S  
NOT RIGHT.

IF I  
LIVE  
HERE...

...I'LL BE  
MISERABLE.

...I HAVE TWO  
WONDERFUL  
FRIENDS...

THE SOHMAS  
TREATED ME  
'KINDLY'...



...AND GRANDPA IS SO  
GENEROUS TO LET ME  
LIVE WITH HIM...

I ONLY HAVE  
THINGS TO BE  
GRATEFUL FOR.

BUT...

I'M VERY...  
BLESSED.



EVEN  
SO...

I WANT  
TO LEARN  
MORE...

...ABOUT  
SOHMA-KUN AND  
KYO-KUN.

...SOHMA-  
KUN'S  
HOUSE...

...SO MUCH,

I WANT TO  
HAVE DINNER  
WITH THEM AND  
TALK ABOUT SO  
MANY THINGS.

I DIDN'T  
REALLY  
WANT...

...I WANT  
TO GO  
BACK.

I MISS...

IS THAT  
WRONG?

I WANTED  
TO STAY...

...I HATED  
TO LEAVE.

IS IT  
PROOF...

I  
WANT-  
ED TO  
STAY...

...THAT I'M  
SPOILED?

...WITH  
SOHMA-  
KUN...

...AND  
KYO-  
KUN...

I THINK  
IT'S  
TIME  
YOU...

...AND  
SHIGURE-  
SAN.









UH,  
UM...

KYO-KUN,  
HOW DID YOU  
FIND ME?

YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO  
LEFT THE  
ADDRESS!

EVEN IF  
IT WAS  
FRICKIN'  
HARD TO  
MAKE OUT!



THANKS TO  
YOUR LOUSY  
HANDWRITING,  
I HAD TO  
SPEND ALL DAY  
WALKING WITH  
THAT DAMN  
YUK!!

This  
can't be  
right!  
Gimme  
the  
map!

No.  
Give  
it!



DAH!

DON'T...

...CALL  
HER TOHRU-  
CHAN LIKE  
YOU'RE HER  
FRIEND.

LOWLIFE.





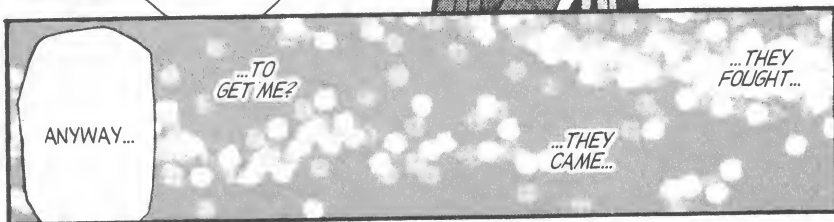
EVEN  
THOUGH...

IT  
DIDN'T  
MAKE ANY  
SENSE,  
SO I GOT  
EVEN MORE  
ANNOYED!

WHY DID  
I GET ALL  
IRRITATED  
THE MOMENT  
YOU LEFT?



I DON'T KNOW  
WHY THE HELL  
I'M DOING THIS.



ANYWAY...

...TO  
GET ME?

...THEY  
FOUGHT...

...THEY  
CAME...



I  
HEARD  
YOU.



BUT--  
HOW  
DID  
YOU--?

E.H.  
?!

...YOU  
SHOULD  
HAVE SAID  
SO IN THE  
FIRST  
PLACE!

IF YOU  
REALLY  
DIDN'T  
WANT TO  
LEAVE...

IT'S  
OKAY...

...TO  
COMPLAIN...

...IT  
WOULD  
BE OKAY...

I  
THOUGHT  
THAT  
YOU...

...WERE  
ALL ABOUT  
SAYING  
WHAT YOU  
FEEL.

...BUT  
IN YOUR  
CASE...

NORMALLY  
I HATE  
PEOPLE  
WHO WHINE  
ALL THE  
TIME...

...TO LET  
YOURSELF  
BE SAD.

BE SELFISH...  
SAY WHAT YOU  
WANT... ONCE  
IN A WHILE.

!





"IT'S  
OKAY..."

"...TO LET  
YOURSELF  
BE SAD."

.....!



HEY!

WHY  
ARE YOU  
CRYING?!

WHAT  
?!

WHAT'S  
WRONG?!

...TO  
GO BACK.

I DO  
WANT  
...

...  
HIC.



...HOME!

"IT'S  
OKAY."

I WANT  
TO GO  
BACK...

THEN  
WE'RE  
GOING  
HOME  
NOW!

All  
right  
already!

!

.....



ONIGIRI!

THERE'S...



CONGRATU-  
LATIONS ON  
OPERATION:  
KIDNAP THE  
PRINCESS!

YOU  
MAKE IT  
SOUND AS  
IF WE DID  
SOMETHING  
WRONG.

AT LEAST  
CALL IT A  
RESCUE.

UM...

...I'M  
BACK.  
I HOPE  
THAT'S  
NOT A  
PROBLEM.

THERE'S  
NO ONE...  
...AS LUCKY  
AS ME.

Your  
nose is  
running.

Heh.

TOO  
NOSE

Y  
NASE

MOM.



IT'S SO NICE TO SEE THAT THEIR EFFORTS WERE REWARDED.

YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THESE TWO. THEY PRACTICALLY KILLED ME TO GET YOUR ADDRESS.

As opposed to Kyo-kun, who's always flustered.

!!

Well, I'm not actually going to do anything, but...

YES, YES.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. LEAVE ALL YOUR WORRIES TO ME.

BUT!

I CAN'T CAUSE YOU ANY MORE PROBLEMS!

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE. JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T RUN AWAY AGAIN.

MOPING AROUND LIKE A SAD RAT WHO LOST HIS CHEESE.

... FLUSTERED!

I WASN'T THAT...



YES!



YOU WERE THE ONE MOPING.



I'M HOME.

Oh, it's on now.

Today you're going down!

WITH MY FAMILY.



DAMN, # YUKI!

IT'S NOT MUCH OF A HOME...  
...BUT IF YOU'LL TAKE IT, TOHRU-KUN, IT'S YOURS.

To be continued in Volume 2...

Omake Theater 4: This question isn't on the S.A.T....



Correct answer: Sometimes it's easier to understand a situation if you look at it from a distance.



*I feel so grateful...*

See you  
soon!

Thanks to Harada-sama,  
Araki-sama, Mother, my  
editor, and everyone who  
reads and supports "Fruits  
Basket."

Next time it'll be Yuki--

This is Natsuki Takaya,  
signing off!

Next time in...



### Old Friends and New Family

The Sohma family is just starting to get used to life with Tohru, but can they survive a sleepover visit by her two best friends without their secret being exposed? Things aren't any easier at school where crowd-shy Kyo must deal with sudden popularity—and a surprise visit by two other members of the Sohma clan!

**Fruits Basket Volume 2**  
Available April 2004



### Boar

Years: 1971, 1983,  
1995, 2007  
Positive: reliable,  
sincere, tolerant  
Negative: shy, short  
tempered



### Dog

Years: 1970, 1982,  
1994, 2006  
Positive: honest,  
generous, faithful  
Negative: quiet,  
cynical



### Rooster

Years: 1969, 1981,  
1993, 2005  
Positive: courageous,  
hardworking, skilled  
Negative: arrogant,  
selfish



### Monkey

Years: 1968, 1980,  
1992, 2004  
Positive: inventive,  
entertaining, magnetic  
personality  
Negative: distrusting,  
untrusting

### Dragon

Years: 1964, 1976,  
1988, 2000  
Positive: intelligent,  
enthusiastic,  
softhearted  
Negative: bossy, loud



### Snake

Years: 1965, 1977,  
1989, 2001  
Positive: romantic,  
clever, beautiful  
Negative: vain,  
procrastinators



### Sheep

Years: 1967, 1979,  
1991, 2003  
Positive: creative,  
honest, passionate  
Negative:  
disorganized,  
timid



### Horse

Years: 1966, 1978,  
1990, 2002  
Positive: cunning,  
adventurous,  
cheerful  
Negative:  
impatient, selfish



# Fruit's Basket's

## The Chinese Zodiac – Part 1: History Lesson

Fables, myths, and legends abound in every culture of the world. Some of the most ancient of them stem from a basic need to place some type of meaning on those events that are out of our control. The exact origins of the Chinese Zodiac remain a mystery, but their influence is still being felt even today.

The Chinese once viewed time as a cyclical journey consisting of highs and lows that would eventually come full circle. This concept of time would become the basis for the Chinese Lunar Calendar, a 12-year calendar built around 60-year cycles that were delegated by the longitude of the sun and the phases of the moon.

The calendar itself dates back to around 2637 B.C. and consists of 10 Heavenly Steams (elements with yin and yang characteristics) and 12 Earthly Branches (animals of the zodiac) that are clumped together to become the name of the year. When the steams and branches, also known as "Jikkan Junishi," are combined in sequential order, they do not repeat until 60 years have passed. So in essence no one person will ever see any given year more than twice in their own lifetime.

Unfortunately, much of the population was illiterate and unable to fully grasp the complexity of the calendar so the 12 Earthly Branches came to be represented by animals so that everyone could remember them better. The version of the calendar that has been passed down also incorporates the five Chinese elements (Metal, Water, Wood, Fire, and Earth) into its design. The elements themselves each have a yin and yang variation, but the zodiac animals are always either yin or yang. For example, an odd year is yin and an even year is yang.

Japan was introduced to the Chinese calendar in approximately 604 A.D. during the reign of the Empress Suiko-Tenno, when she made an active attempt to spread the many wonders of Buddhism throughout the island nation. By this time though, the calendar was all ready being used for a number of things including telling the time of day through two-hour intervals and even pointing out cardinal directions.

As time went on, the animals became the core basis of Asian astrology, which dictates that one's personality can be divined from the year in which they were born. When combined with the elemental aspects of the calendar, Chinese astrology can even point out which partner will be more dominant in a relationship. Needless to say, the vast majority of the population does not take this seriously anymore.

Still, the Chinese Zodiac does have its uses in modern society. Instead of being rude and asking someone how old they are, one would instead ask what their animal where they born under. With a little math—just add or subtract 12—you'll have your answer. And let us not forget the Chinese New Year, which is celebrated every year in either late January or early February.

### Cow

Years: 1961, 1973,  
1985, 1997  
Positive: inspiring,  
conservative, natural  
born leaders  
Negative: stubborn,  
unyielding personality



### Tiger

Years: 1962, 1974,  
1986, 1998  
Positive: courageous,  
unpredictable, loving  
Negative: overly  
aggressive, highly  
emotional



### Rabbit

Years: 1963, 1975,  
1987, 1999  
Positive:  
affectionate,  
pleasant, talented  
Negative: too sen-  
timental, avoids  
conflict

### Rat

Years: 1960, 1972,  
1984, 1996  
Positive:  
imaginative,  
ambitious,  
generous to  
loved ones  
Negative:  
hot-tempered,



## A conversation with Laura Bailey. the English voice of Tohru Honda

You genuinely care about every storyline.

TP: How did you prepare for the role of Tohru Honda? How was this character different from other anime characters that you've played?

LB: In preparing for the part, I researched the series on the Internet and watched the Japanese version. Tohru was the first innocent character I'd played. The more I researched, the more I fell in love with that innocence.

TP: How does the original Japanese performance influence your own interpretation of a character?

LB: Well, it helped me form a basis for Tohru's mannerisms and inflections. I think when the original is so wonderful, you don't want to stray from that. Why mess with a good thing, y'know?

TP: Many of Tohru's humble behaviors and speech patterns must have been very difficult to translate to English. What did you find most challenging about capturing her character in your performance?

LB: Actually, I was asked a similar question by Mr. Daichi (Japanese director) himself, during a panel discussion. He wanted to make sure that her sweetness and formal nature didn't get lost in the translation. I think that, while we in America don't have that same speech formality, the humble nature can still be communicated through inflections and tone. I guess the challenging part was just making sure to always use those softer inflections.

TP: What about Tohru's character do you most relate to? What do you find difficult to relate to?

LB: Her desire to turn any situation into a positive one—that's what I most connected with. Not to say that I always succeed ... but I certainly try to remain optimistic. I think it was her formal nature that I found most difficult. Luckily, John Burgmeier did a wonderful job with the dialogue, which made things easier.

TOKYOPOP: Could you briefly explain the process of voice acting for Fruits Basket?

Laura Bailey: I, as an actress, become involved after the translated script has been completed and the director has an idea of what he wants from the episode. Justin Cook, my voice director on Fruits Basket, usually has pretty specific ideas and is great about filling me in on what's happening throughout the show. He'll give me the background of other characters and help me decide where Tohru is coming from during her interaction with others. That's especially helpful when I'm the first actor to record on an episode. All actors record separately due to the difficulty of ADR; but I always prefer to be the last to record so that I can have Justin play the other actors in my headphones when I go in. It's easier to be believable when you know what you're reacting to. One of the great things about Tohru was, though she had a lot of dialogue, most of it was spoken off screen. That helped to speed up recording because I didn't have to match mouth flaps and could use the timing that I wanted to. Often, on the narration, I could get through it in one take.

TP: When you first became involved with Fruits Basket, were you aware of the huge international following that the series has? What is it about Fruits Basket, do you think, that makes it such a fan favorite series with many viewers and readers outside of the usual shojo market?

LB: I had no idea Fruits Basket had the following it did, but I could tell from the first episode I watched that it wasn't an average series. I think what makes Fruits Basket so special is the depth of all the characters.



Laura Bailey



TP: How is acting for anime different from other acting jobs you do?

LB: Well I can look like sin for one thing. I love that. And anime is the only thing I do in which I act after the fact. Dubbing is a craft unto itself; it takes a completely different approach. You don't always get to decide how you want to say a line, because your way doesn't work with the timing. Anime means taking something very specific, and making it work for you.

TP: Do you have a favorite anime or manga series?

LB: I feel like a cheese for saying so, but Fruits Basket is my favorite. When I found out you guys were releasing the manga in english, I was ecstatic.

TP: What's your zodiac animal? Are you happy being that animal or would you rather be something else?

LB: I'm a cock. I wouldn't change that either; just 'cause it's fun to say, "I'm a cock."

TP: Okay, I have to ask... If you were in Tohru's shoes and you had to pick one guy, who would you choose Kyo or Yuki?

LB: I don't know ... I've tried to make that choice about a thousand times. At first I thought Kyo because, c'mon, he's awesome. He's got the whole bad boy thing working for him; but then I think about Yuki, and how much he truly cares about Tohru and how wonderful a person he is ... and I'm back at square one. It's an endless circle.

TP: Tohru is a very emotional character who is often moved to tears of joy or sadness. Was it difficult to bring out her emotions out in your performance?

LB: It wasn't so much difficult as it was draining. In the last few episodes especially, Tohru goes through a lot of extreme emotions. Those days of recording were the hardest. The emotion you feel as the character, attaches itself to you, so I left the booth very depressed and frustrated.

TP: What was it like working with the other members of the Fruits Basket cast? What was your involvement with the other actors?

LB: Justin did a great job of casting the show. When listening to the final product, I kept wishing that I had been able to be involved with their recording sessions as well. Luckily, I'm friends with a lot of the cast, so I could still tell them how much I enjoyed what they did.

TP: How did you feel when the series was over?

LB: I was so upset. I loved working on Fruits Basket; there's no doubt that I would jump at the chance to continue it.

TP: What was your first voice acting role for anime?

LB: The first thing I did was kid Dende on Dragonball Z. I was filling in for the woman who originally did that voice, as she wasn't available. It turns out, though, she came back to the studio after me, and rerecorded everything I'd done. Which really sucked, let me tell you. Soon after, though, I was cast as kid Trunks. So I guess it was all for the best in the end.

TP: Is there a favorite anime role that you've performed?

LB: Tohru. I just loved everything about her.

TP: What was the most challenging role you've ever played?

LB: That's a tough question. Either Tohru or Marlene in Blue Gender. Both had some intense moments throughout their series.

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# How to Play Rich Man, Poor Man

(Dai Hin Min/ Dai Fugo)

## OBJECTIVE

The aim is to get rid of all your cards as soon as possible.

## PLAYERS AND CARDS

About 4 to 7 people using a standard 54 card pack with jokers. The suits are irrelevant and the cards rank, from high to low with deuces high: 2 A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3. Jokers are wild.

## DEAL

The game is played clockwise. All the cards are dealt out. Some players may have one more than others.

## PLAY

The player to dealer's left starts by leading (face up) any single card or any set of cards of equal rank (for example, three fives). Each player in turn must then either pass (i.e. not play any cards), or play face up a card or set of cards which beats the previous play.

A single card is beaten by any higher single card. A set of cards can only be beaten by a higher set containing the same number of cards. So for example, if the previous player played two sixes, you can beat this with two kings, or two sevens, but not with a single king, and not with three sevens (though you could play two of them and hang onto the third).

It is not necessary to beat the previous play just because you can -- passing is always allowed. Also passing does not prevent you from playing the next time your turn comes round.

The play continues as many times around the table as necessary until someone makes a play which everyone else passes. All the cards played are then turned face down and put to one side, and the player who played last (and highest) in the previous "trick" starts again by leading any card or set of equal cards.

For example the play might go:

Tohru leads with a pair of fours. Kyo follows with a pair of sevens. Uo passes. Hanajima follows with a pair of Tens. Tohru passes. Kyo plays a pair of Jacks. Uo passes. Hanajima passes. Tohru passes. Kyo then starts again by leading any card or set.

When a player whose turn it is to play has no more cards left, the turn passes to the next player in rotation. Therefore in the example, if the two Jacks were Kyo's last two cards, he would sit out the rest of the round and it would then be Uo's turn to play anything.

Jokers are wild and are equal in rank to whatever card they are played with.

For scoring purposes, whoever goes out first gets 2 points, second out gets one point and the rest of the players get no points.

## SOCIAL STATUS

The first player who is out of cards is dubbed the "Dai Fugo," or very rich man. Other variations on the rules call this person the President, King, or the Great Dalmuti. The last player to be left with any cards is known as the "Dai Hin Min," or very poor man. You can also use other derivative terms such as peon, beggar, scum, or a--hole.

While it's not part of the basic Dai Hin Min rules, many variations also give titles to the



players based on their rank. So if you use "King" as your model, you might have King, Duke, Knight, Merchant, and Peon as your ranks. More importantly, the players of higher status are entitled to enjoy and generally abuse their power over the lower ranking players. You can also add to the fun by having players wear hats based on rank, with the leader wearing a crown and the loser wearing a dunce cap.

Between hands, players move seats based on ranks. The Dai Fugo selects the most comfortable chair; second place sits to the left, and so on around to the Dai Hin Min who sits to the Dai Fugo's right, probably on a crate or packing case.

The Dai Hin Min is responsible for shuffling, dealing and clearing away the cards when necessary. As the players are now seated clockwise in order of rank, the first card is dealt to the Dai Fugo, and so on down.

When the deal is complete, the Dai Hin Min must give his highest card to the Dai Fugo, and the Dai Fugo gives back in exchange any card that he does not want. Second place trades with second from last, etc. If there are an odd number of players, the middle player doesn't swap. (Variation: swap 2 cards per round)

The Dai Hin Min then leads any card or set of cards and the game continues as before.

#### **END OF GAME**

If scoring, set a target score (say 11 points). The game ends when someone reaches it.

#### **VARIATIONS**

##### *Shibari*

If a player follows a play with a card of the same suit, that player may declare "shibari," or "binding," which means that all other players must follow suit in order to play. For example, if Hanajima plays a seven of clubs and Tohru trumps it with a nine of clubs, she can declare shibari on clubs, and only clubs can be played. This variation can work with doubles and triples, too. Example—Kyo plays a six of clubs and a six of hearts. Uo trumps that with a eight of diamonds and an eight of hearts. She can declare shibari on hearts so that each subsequent play must have a heart plus any other. Double shibari or triple shibari can be declared if two or three suits match. Shibari's are only effective for the hand in which they are played.

##### *Revolution!*

If four of a kind are played, it is called a revolution. When this happens, the rank of cards is reversed. From that point on, lower values now trump higher values until there is another revolution. For more turmoil, you can also switch the ranks of players!

##### *Dai Fugo makes the rules!*

Another fun variation is to let the Dai Fugo add an extra rule each round (or cancel an existing rule). The rules will likely make it easier for the Dai Fugo to keep winning or be humiliating for the loser, but in Dai Hin Min, as in life, it's not always fair. But remember Karma—what comes around goes around, and you won't stay on top forever...

There are many other variations to Dai Hin Min and its Western equivalents, and the rules are slightly different depending on whoever you ask. For other variations, and rules on similar games, visit [www.pagat.com](http://www.pagat.com), the web's leading resource for card games.